BYAAAH!!!

NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

HERE'S THE 9TH VOLUME OF THE MANGA: GHOST HUNT
FOR THE FANS BY A FAN.
REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED) CROPPED) CLEANED) SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, GO BUY IT FOR
YOURSELVES AND ENJOY YOUR OWN VERSION..
ANYHOW ENJOY!

SCANNED: OCT '07
NEXT UP: SOMETHING
NOTE: HEH THERES GOES MY ONCE A WEEK PROMISE.
NEAREST THING I COULD FIND TO
A HALLOWEEN THEME.

TILL NEXT TIME, ENJOY!

RU

9

GHOST HUNT

Manga by **Shiho Inada**

Story by **Fuyumi Ono**

Author of *The Twelve Kingdoms*

tanoshimi

GHOST HUNT

9

Shiho Inada
Fuyumi Ono

APPETITE FOR REVENGE

The ghost hunters' new case has turned deadly. Naru, the leader of Shibuya Psychic Research, is under a dark spell. When Naru awakens, he foolishly decides to take on an evil spirit alone. Now he faces a life or death struggle!

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GHOST HUNT

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MANGA BY SHIHO INAOA

STORY BY FUYUMI ONO

TRANSLATED BY SATSUKI YAMASHITA

ADAPTED BY DAVID WALSH

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

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LONDON

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Tanoshimi Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics, and, more important, how they differ from English honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei" or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Tanoshimi not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Tanoshimi Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "-sempei" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be insulting.

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FROM THE
EVIL SPIRIT SERIES

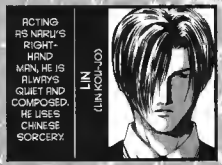
GHOST HUNT

9

THE CURSED HOUSE

FORMERLY A MONK AT KOUYA MOUNTAIN. HE IS LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER ONE CAN COUNT ON.

KOUSHOU TAKIGAWA (MONK-SAN)

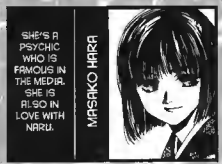


ACTING AS NARU'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, HE IS ALWAYS QUIET AND COMPOSED. HE USES CHINESE SORCERY.

LIN (LIN KOU-JO)

AN EXORCIST WHO SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT. HE'S ACTUALLY OLDER THAN NARU!

JOHN BROWN



SHE'S A PSYCHIC WHO IS FAMOUS IN THE MEDIA. SHE IS ALSO IN LOVE WITH NARU.

MASAKO HARA

HE IS A FORMER CLIENT. BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT ABILITY TO GATHER INFORMATION, HE IS HELPING SPR.

OSAMU YASUHARA

SHE IS A SELF-CLAIMED "MIKO" WHO HAS YET TO PROVE HER ABILITIES...

AYAKO MATSUZAKI

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH

ALSO KNOWN AS SPR. THIS IS AN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY FOR PSYCHIC PHENOMENA OF WHICH NARU IS PRESIDENT. WITH THE HELP OF SCIENCE, THEY INVESTIGATE AND ANALYZE UNNATURAL PHENOMENA THAT CLIENTS BRING TO THEM. THIS TIME, MAI AND THE TEAM HAVE COME TO THE YOSHIMI RESIDENCE TO INVESTIGATE CLAIMS THAT EACH TIME THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD CHANGES, MULTIPLE DEATHS OCCUR.

BUT A STRONG FORCE OPPOSES THEM AND NARU FALLS ILL. IN ADDITION, HAS SOMETHING BEGUN CONTROLLING THE YOSHIMI FAMILY MEMBERS--!?

GHOST HUNT

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH

KAZUYA SHIBUYA (AKA NARU)

HE IS AN EXTREME NARCISSIST WHO IS COOL-HEADED, ATTRACTIVE, AND VERY SMART. EVERYONE CALLS HIM NARU, WHICH IS SHORT FOR NARCISSIST. HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF SPR, BUT HIS PERSONAL LIFE IS A MYSTERY.

MAI TANIYAMA

SHE IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO ALSO WORKS PART-TIME AT SPR. SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE AND HEAR THINGS IN HER DREAMS! SHE'S IN LOVE WITH NARU, BUT HE GIVES HER A HARD TIME.

HEY
BY THE WAY,
DON'T YOU HAVE TO TURN YOUR BOY OVER WHILE HE SLEEPS?
HE MIGHT GET BEDSORES.
...

GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

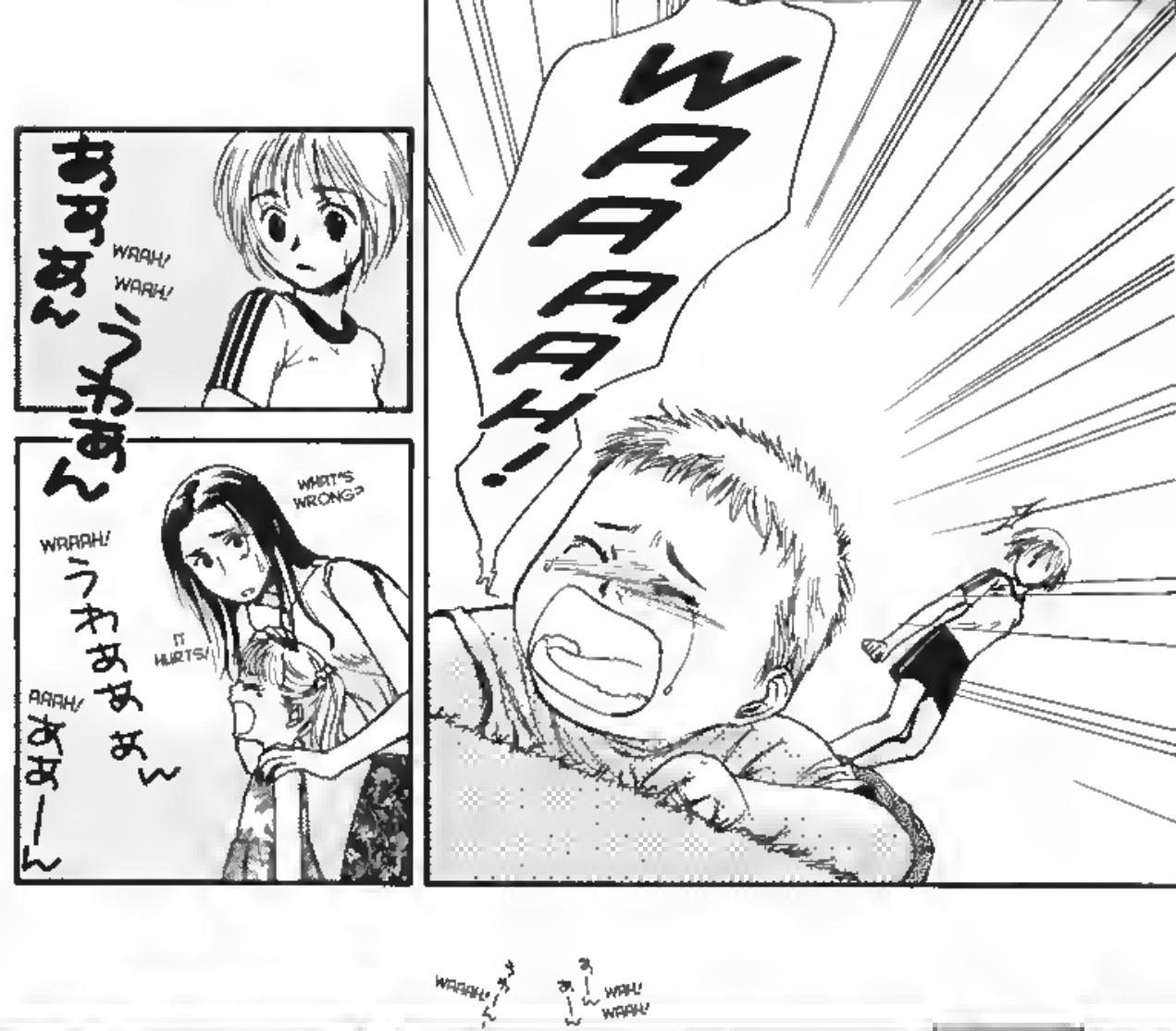
FILE 5

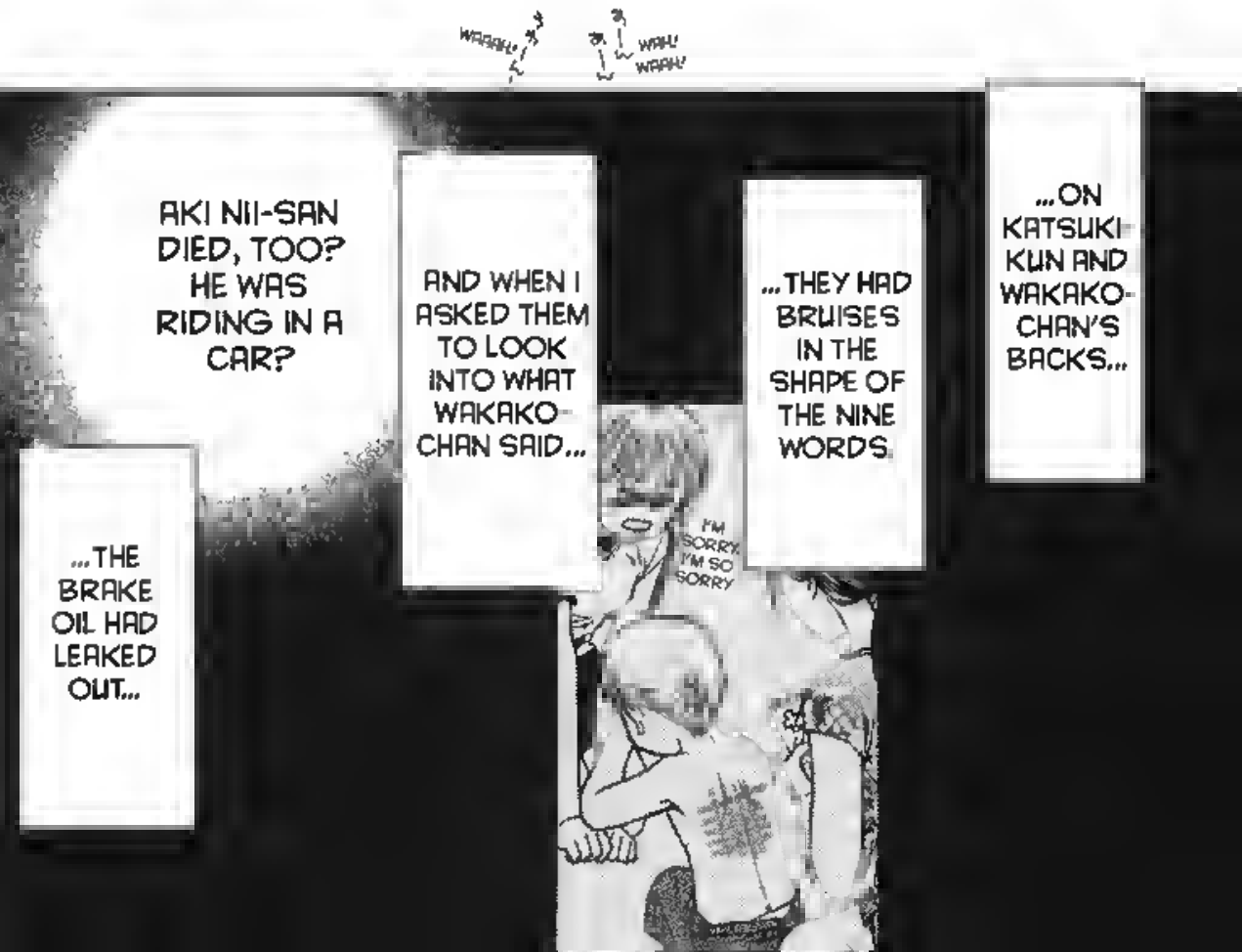
KATSUKI-KUN, WAIT!
I NEED TO STOP HIM.
WOOOOOSH
BUT...
WHAT IF I USE THE NINE WORDS AND HURT HIM!?

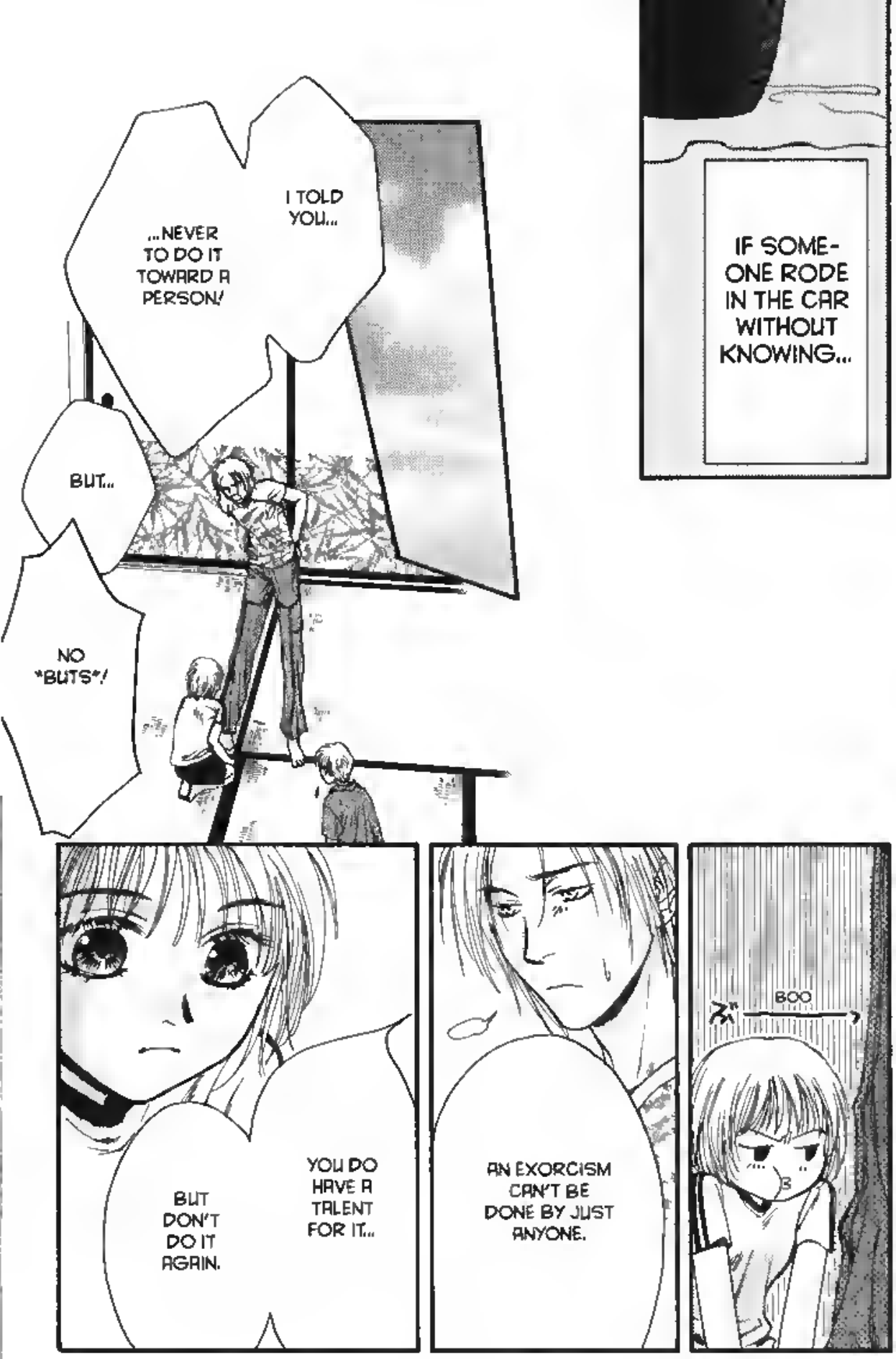
"I DID EXPEL ONE POSSESSING A VASE ONCE, BUT I ALSO SMASHED THE VASE INTO A MILLION PIECES."
BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SOMETHING BAD WON'T HAPPEN!
THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE MONK-SAN IS A PSYCHIC.
WHAT TO DO?
WHAT TO DO?
IF IT'S JUST ME, IT SHOULDN'T...
WHAT—

RIN...
ZEN!
PYO
TOU SHA
KAI JIN
RETSU
ZAI
AAAGH!

VOOM
AAAGH!
IT... DISAPPEARED...
URG...
WHAT WAS THAT?


WAAAAH!
WAAH!
WAAH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT HURTS!
WAAAH!


WAAAH!
WAH!
WAAH!
AKI NII-SAN DIED, TOO? HE WAS RIDING IN A CAR?
AND WHEN I ASKED THEM TO LOOK INTO WHAT WAKAKO-CHAN SAID...
...THEY HAD BRUISES IN THE SHAPE OF THE NINE WORDS.
...ON KATSUKI-KUN AND WAKAKO-CHAN'S BACKS...
...THE BRAKE OIL HAD LEAKED OUT...
I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY


IF SOME-ONE RODE IN THE CAR WITHOUT KNOWING...
I TOLD YOU...
...NEVER TO DO IT TOWARD A PERSON!
BUT...
NO "BUTS"!
BOO
AN EXORCISM CAN'T BE DONE BY JUST ANYONE.
YOU DO HAVE A TALENT FOR IT...
BUT DON'T DO IT AGAIN.

NEVER EVER PUT YOURSELF IN A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU HAVE TO DIRECT THE NINE WORDS AGAINST A PERSON.
GOOD
I'M SORRY... OKAY.. VERY..
AND?
WE GAVE THE LITTLE KIDS A CHARM?
WAS THERE ANYONE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ONE?
LET'S SEE, WE JUST GAVE ONE TO THE YOUNG MASTER...
AND WE WANTED TO GIVE ONE TO NAO-SAN, BUT SHE WASN'T AROUND.
DID ANY-ONE SAY WHERE SHE WAS?
ACTUALLY, NO ONE KNOWS.
...I SEE.
I DO NOT NEED IT.
SLIDE
YOKO-SAN SAID...
OH.

WHO HURT THE KIDS?
WHO DID THAT TO KATSUKI?
AND YOU GUYS GAVE HIM A WEIRD THING.
WEIRD THING?
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG.
TAKE IT OFF RIGHT NOW!
THAT CHARM IS RIDICULOUS.
HE WON'T TAKE IT OFF EVEN IF I TELL HIM TO.
YOKO-SAN, IS SHE POSSIBLY...
YOU ALSO DID SOMETHING TO HAZUKI.
AND WAKAKO, AND YASUTAKA.
AND EIJIROU!

RUSTLE
DO YOU HAVE IT, TOO?
THIS IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT YOU.
PANT PANT
YOU KEEP MESSING WITH THINGS THAT ARE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
...WON'T DO ANY-THING.
...THAT THING...
SHE TOOK IT...
PHEW
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HERE.
VOOF

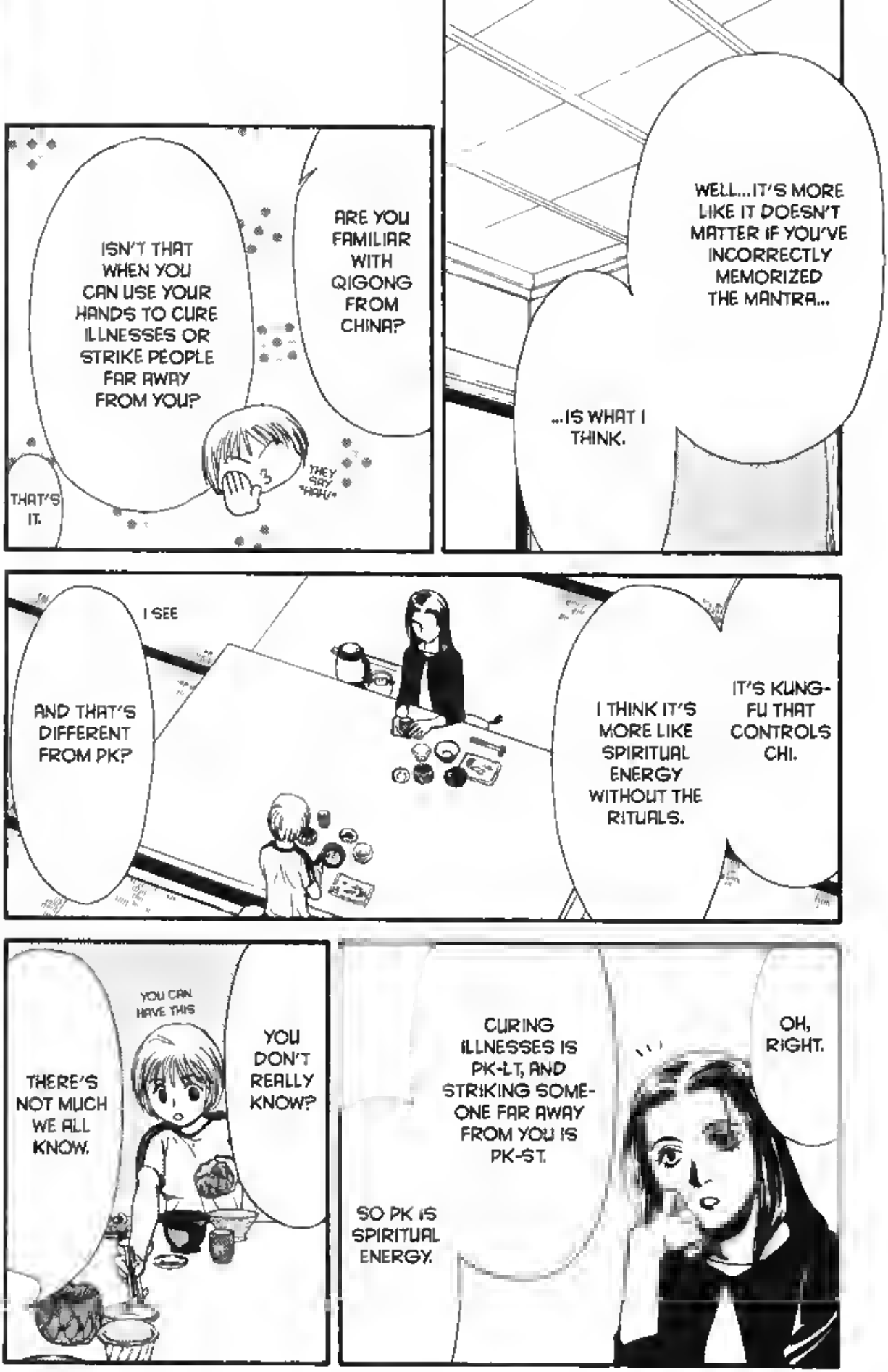
...SEE?
IT'S ENTIRELY USELESS.
AYAKO.
SHICHI BAKU.
OK.
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S NOTHING.
WE NEED TO TALK TO YOKO-SAN, THAT'S ALL.
-JOHN.
CLICK

TO EXPOSE YOURSELF NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE HIDDEN...
I STRICTLY ORDER YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.
SPLASH
...AND TO LEAVE THE BODY YOU RESIDE IN.
GO IMMEDIATELY.
EVERYBODY BLESSED BY THE HOLY TRINITY HAS FOREVER BANNED YOUR EXISTENCE.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, LEAVE AND SEEK A BODY DEVOTED BY THE LORD.
IN PRINCIPIO.

GRAH!
THUNK
YOKO-SAN...?
YO...
PLEASE KEEP THIS AND NEVER TAKE IT OFF.
YOU'RE OKAY NOW.
YES... UM...
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT?

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON WHEN THE YOUNG MASTER WAS EXPLAINING EVERYTHING.
WHO, YOKO-SAN?
PROBABLY.
...I DIDN'T THINK SHE LOST HER AWARENESS THAT LONG AGO.
THAT'S AN IMMOBILITY CHANT.
IT JUST MAKES A PERSON UNABLE TO MOVE FOR A WHILE.
AND YOU DID THE NINE WORDS AGAINST YOKO-SAN, BUT IT WAS SAFE?
HM?
OH, WHAT'S SHICHI BAKU?

ORIGINALLY, THE NINE WORDS WERE KNOWN AS THE DEFENSIVE NINE WORDS AND WERE USED FOR SELF-DEFENSE.
OH, REALLY?
YOU USE THEM WHEN YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DEMONS INTRUDING WHILE YOU PRAY OR TRAIN.
IF YOU TAKE THE MIDDLE AND PUSH YOUR SPIRIT OUT...
...YOU CAN USE IT AS AN ATTACK.
WHEN YOU PUSH YOUR SPIRIT OUT, YOU'RE ALSO SHOOTING OUT SPIRITUAL ENERGY.
THEN EXORCISM IS CONTROLLING SPIRITUAL ENERGY?
YEAH.
AND USING CHANTS AND TOOLS JUST ENHANCES THE ENERGY.
HOT, HOT.
FOO
JI
IT'S NOT COMPLETELY NECESSARY, THOUGH.
THEN ISN'T IT POINT-LESS?


WELL...IT'S MORE LIKE IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'VE INCORRECTLY MEMORIZED THE MANTRA...
...IS WHAT I THINK.
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH QIGONG FROM CHINA?
ISN'T THAT WHEN YOU CAN USE YOUR HANDS TO CURE ILLNESSES OR STRIKE PEOPLE FAR AWAY FROM YOU?
THEY SAY "HAH!"
THAT'S IT.
I SEE
AND THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM PK?
I THINK IT'S MORE LIKE SPIRITUAL ENERGY WITHOUT THE RITUALS.
IT'S KUNG-FU THAT CONTROLS CHI.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS
THERE'S NOT MUCH WE ALL KNOW.
YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW?
OH, RIGHT.
CURING ILLNESSES IS PK-LT, AND STRIKING SOMEONE FAR AWAY FROM YOU IS PK-ST.
SO PK IS SPIRITUAL ENERGY.

I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH QIGONG.
ALTHOUGH I'VE HEARD THOSE WHO'VE MASTERED IT ARE AMAZING.
NO, YOU HAVE TO EAT IT!
DANG
THEY CAN CRACK ROCKS WITHOUT TOUCHING THEM, BEND STEEL, CURE CANCER...
...EVEN CONTROL PEOPLE, OR SO I'VE HEARD.
AND ALSO EXOR-CISE SPIRITS.
I SEE.
MAYBE LIN-SAN CAN DO IT.
HA HA HA
YEAH, HE LOOKS IT.
HE KNOWS BUT DOESN'T DO IT
NARU!
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY NARU IS A QIGONG EXPERT.
THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN TYING HIM UP.

THAT MEANS NARU PRACTICES VEGETARIAN-ISM, TOO, RIGHT?
THAT'S POSSIBLE.
"I HEARD THAT SHIBUYA-SAN AND LIN-SAN DON'T EAT MEAT..."
AND DURING OUR MEALS, NARU HAD THE SAME MENU AS LIN-SAN.
IT'S DANGEROUS. YOU HAVE TO KEEP HIM SLEEPING.
AND LOCKING HIM UP WON'T WORK EITHER...
OH YEAH!
OH!
I SEE... NARU CAN DO QIGONG...
THAT TIME...
YEAH!
UM.
THE SPOON-BENDING CASE?
WHAT IS IT?
REMEMBER THE TIME NARU AND I FELL INTO THE MANHOLE?
WHEN WE WERE INVESTIGATING TAKA'S SCHOOL?
...THAT HOLE WAS FULL OF RUBBLE.
BUT THE PLACE WE LANDED *HAPPENED* TO NOT HAVE ANY.

...I SEE. LOGICALLY, THAT'S WHAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
SO WOULDN'T EVERYTHING LAND WHERE WE DID?
BECAUSE THE BROKEN LADDER AND RUBBLE FELL WITH US.
BUT I DID THINK IT WAS WEIRD.
THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T GET HURT.
WHY?
SOMEONE MOVED OR SHATTERED THEM...
SMIRK
ニヤリ
BUT THEY DIDN'T.
RIGHT?
YEAH...
AND LIN-SAN STOPPED HIM THAT TIME, TOO.
THAT'S TRUE...
MAYBE THERE'S A REASON WHY HE CAN'T USE IT...
HUH?
BUT IF HE CAN USE QIGONG, HOW COME HE DIDN'T USE IT TO BLOW AWAY THAT FOX-LIKE THING THAT ATTACKED HIM?

NAO-SAN IS GONE?
YES.
EVEN IF SHE WENT OUT, SHE ALWAYS LETS US KNOW IF SHE'S RUNNING LATE...
SHE'S NOT IN THE STORE EITHER?
NO...
HER WALLET AND OTHER BELONGINGS WERE STILL IN HER ROOM.
SO I DON'T THINK SHE'S GONE VERY FAR...

SPLAAASH SPLAAASH
PIT PAT PIT PAT
LIN, CAN YOU STAY HERE?
I'LL HELP FIND HER.
I'LL GO, TOO.

BUT...
SLIDE
ガラッ
WE'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.
SHOULDN'T WE GO LOOK, TOO?
WHAT TIME IS IT?
HUH?
A LITTLE PAST 1.
IF SHE DOESN'T COME HOME TOMORROW, THEY'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE.
PHEW
...NO.
FLAP FLAP
HEY.
ANY-THING?
THIS IS THE CAVE.
LOOK.
TAKIGAWA-SAN.
OH...

DO YOU HAVE A FLASH-LIGHT?
LIN.
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE STAY HERE, TOO.
HEY, MONK-SAN...
MAI AND THE GIRLS STAY HERE.
JOHN, COME.
I DO IN THE CAR.
THWAK!
MONK-SAN!
UMMM.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...
WAS SOME-THING ON THE MONITOR?

DO YOU SEE SOME-THING?
HUH?
YEAH...
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL...
THE WAVE IS PUSHING SOME-THING AROUND.
RIGHT HERE.
WHERE?
RIGHT HERE
CAN YOU SEE IT?
OH, I SEE IT.
WHAT IS IT?
THERE THEY ARE.
THIS MUST BE WHAT MONK-SAN SAW.

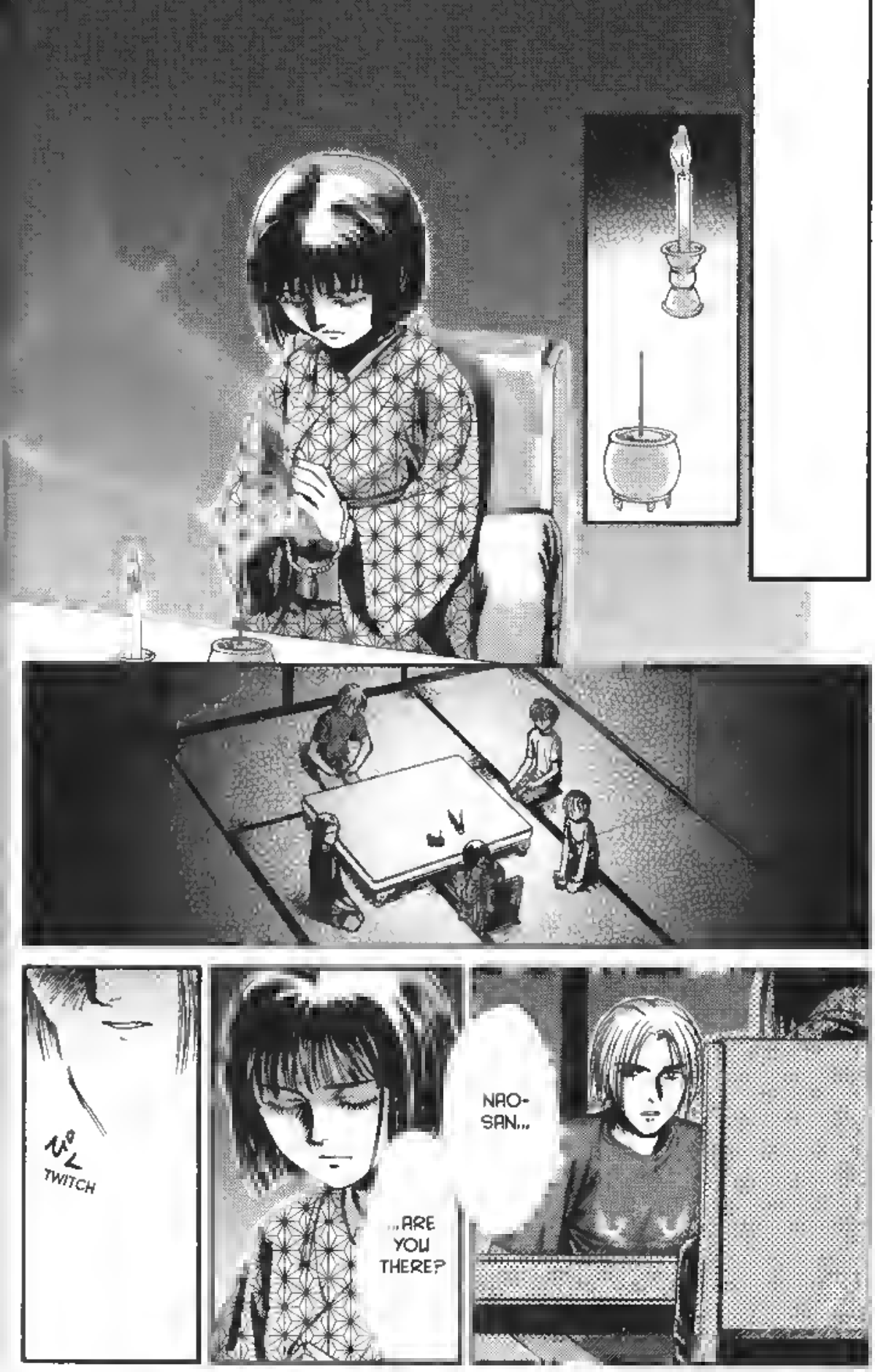
IT'S A JOKE RIGHT?
AKIFUMI-SAN!
HUH?
A... PERSON?
"THE OCEAN WASHES THE DEAD BODIES ASHORE."
IT'S NOT NAO-SAN, RIGHT!?
IT'S NOT, RIGHT?

...AND TOOK NAO-SAN AWAY...
THE POLICE CAME...
WHAT MONK-SAN AND THEM FOUND...
...WAS NAO-SAN, AS I FEARED.

MASAKO-SAN...
YES?
WHY ISN'T...
...NARU HERE NOW?
SO CAN YOU DO IT INSTEAD?
LIN SAID THIS ISN'T A GOOD DAY FOR HIM.
CAN YOU SUMMON NAO-SAN'S SPIRIT?
HEY...
...SHOULDN'T WE TELL ONE OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS?
NO.
...I CAN, YES.
THINK...

NAO-SAN DIED SUDDENLY.
ANSWER ME.
SHE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO SAY TO HER FAMILY!
MASAKO, IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO PREPARE?
AND...
...WHY NOT?
WE DON'T KNOW IF NAO-SAN'S DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT.
HUH?
—

AT THAT POINT, THERE WERE THREE PEOPLE WHO WERE POSSESSED.
WHEN WE PASSED OUT THE CHARMS, NAO-SAN WAS ALREADY GONE.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE.
IF YOKO-SAN KILLED HER...
/ MONK-SAN./
I'LL STATE IT CLEARLY.
IT'S POSSIBLE SHE WAS MURDERED BY SOME-ONE IN HER FAMILY.
...DO YOU THINK THE FAMILY WANTS TO HEAR THAT?
WITHOUT HER FAMILY.
BUT WE NEED TO SPEAK TO HER TO FIND OUT.
I HOPE THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
UNDER-STOOD?
UNDER-STOOD...
BUT THAT...


TWITCH
...ARE YOU THERE?
NAO-SAN...

WHAT... IS THIS?
YES...
YOU ARE NAO YOSHIMI-SAN?
YES...
DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU PASSED AWAY?
YOU HAVE PASSED AWAY
DO YOU COMPREHEND?
I WAS IN THE YARD OUTSIDE THE TEAROOM... LOOKING AT THE OCEAN—
I FELL...
...INTO THE OCEAN.
...YES

...AND SOMEONE PUSHED ME OVER...
IT WAS VERY SCARY...
I DO NOT KNOW...
WHO PUSHED YOU?
SQUEEZE
COULD YOU SAY...
...ANY SMALL DETAIL ABOUT THE PERSON WHO PUSHED YOU?
WHY IS THAT?
IT'S BETTER NOT TO KNOW.
NO...
...THEN I DON'T WANT TO KNOW...
IF THE PERSON WHO PUSHED ME WAS FAMILY...
ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS GO THERE.

NOOO!
WHAT'S WRONG!?
...PULLING ME.
SOME-ONE IS...
I'M SCARED.
WHAT IS THIS?
PULLING?
I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE... NO...
I'M SCARED.
PLEASE DON'T PULL ME.
NAO-SAN!?
MONSTER...!

HELP!
KLANK
WOOSH
...WAS ABLE TO CALL HER.
I...
...WELL, IT WASN'T YASUTAKA-SAN.
NOW THE QUESTION IS BY WHOM.
NAO-SAN WAS MURDERED...
AND THE GRANDMA CANNOT WALK...
WHEN HE WAS CARRIED TO THE HOSPITAL, NAO-SAN WAS THERE.

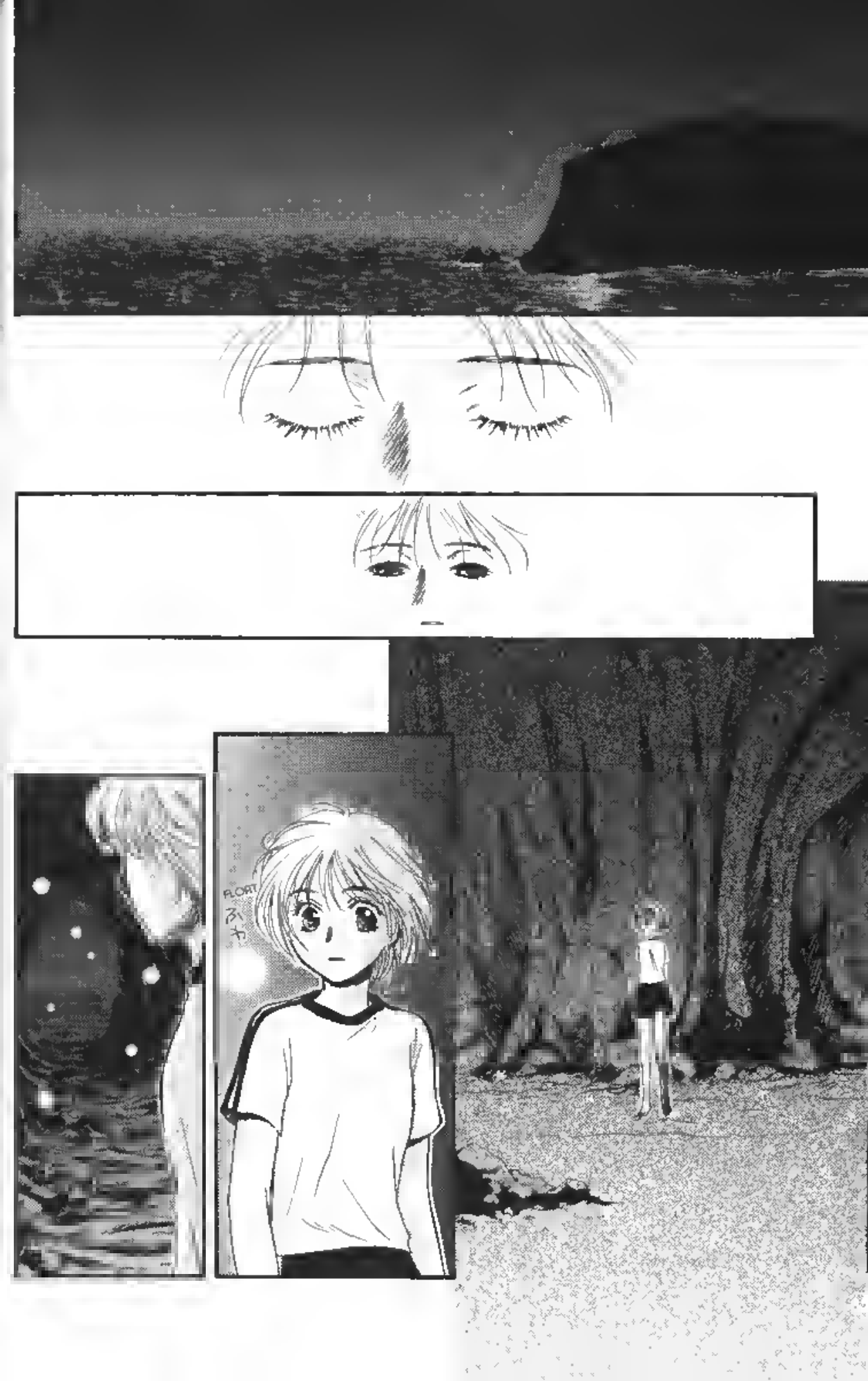
NOT EXACTLY.
THAT MAY BE TRUE...
THERE'S STILL SOMEONE WHO IS POSSESSED.
BUT AREN'T THERE OTHERS WHO ARE MORE SUSPICIOUS?
A KID COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT EITHER.
IF THEY HAVE MOMENTUM, THEY CAN.
WHAT IF YOKO-SAN WAS THE ONE?
...AND THE PERSON FORGOT WHAT HE OR SHE DID.
MAYBE THE EXORCISM IS THROUGH...
...I CAN UNDERSTAND NAO-SAN'S FEELINGS OF NOT WANTING TO KNOW.
AND IF YOKO-SAN FINDS THAT OUT...
THEN SHE WOULD'VE...
...DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
NARU!
"MONSTER!"
I WONDER...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO NAO-SAN'S SPIRIT?
EVEN IF SHE WAS POSSESSED, TO FIND OUT THAT YOU KILLED FAMILY...
...I WOULDN'T WANT TO KNOW THAT EITHER.
EVEN IF WE FIND OUT WHO THE KILLER IS...
—HOW ARE WE GOING TO TELL THEM ONCE THEY'VE RETURNED TO NORMAL?

GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 6


FLORT
ふわ

I'M...
...DREAMING AGAIN.
NAO-SAN...?
NA...
VOOSH
NA...
WAIT, NAO-SAN.

IT'S THE SAME DREAM AS BEFORE.
THE SPIRITS ARE FLOWN UP.
NAO-SAN...
THAT HOKORA
...IT DOES LOOK WARPED.
HUH?
IT DOESN'T HAVE A GOOD FEELING...

NAO-SAN!?
WHAT...
AGAIN!?
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NAO-SAN!
...CEREMONY FOR REBIRTH.

NARU!
PASSING THROUGH A DARK HOLE SYMBOLIZES BEING BORN AGAIN.
PROBABLY.
CEREMONY FOR REBIRTH?
SOME THING ELSE...
...TO REINCARNATE AS SOME-THING ELSE.
SHE WANTS TO GO THROUGH THIS CAVE...

I SEE...
HUH?
SO YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO NEAR.
YEAH.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M A SPIRIT NOW?
THIS CAVE ATTRACTS SPIRITS.
I ONLY KNOW UP TO THAT POINT.
THE SPIRITS REPEAT THIS CEREMONY.
WHOA.
I HELD HANDS WITH HIM AGAIN...
LET'S GO.
I MEAN,
OH.
UM... NARU?
OOH
YEAH?

UH...
YOU SAID LAST TIME THAT YOU "GUIDED ME INTO THE DREAM."
DID YOU ALWAYS?
MAI.
YES?
OH
I WONDER IF THOSE SPIRITS ARE ALL DOING THE CEREMONY?
WHAT AM I SAYING?
MAI.
NA...
NARU?
WHERE DID YOU GO?
NARU /?
MAI.
MAI.

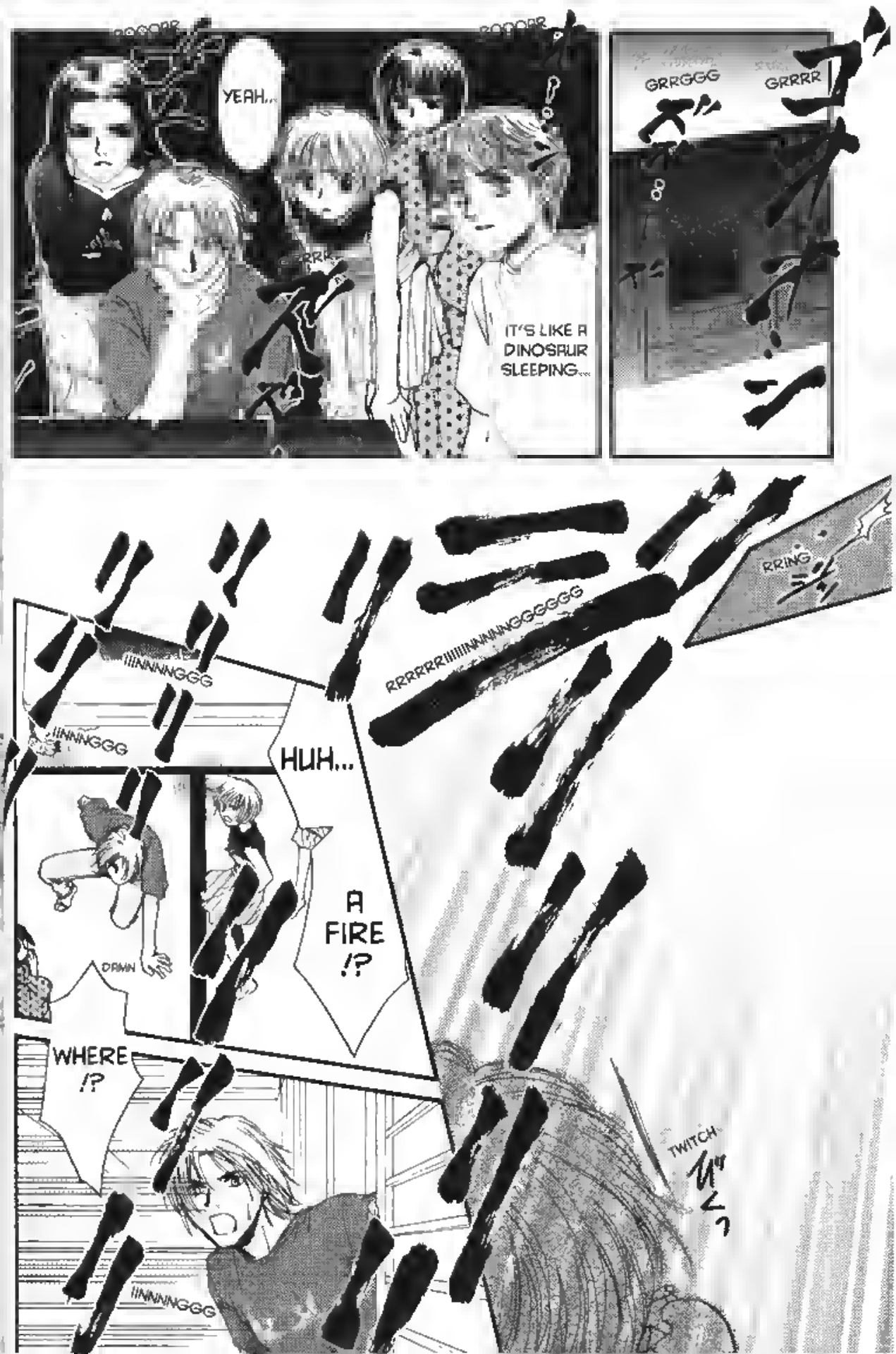
MAI!
WHOA
YOU WERE ON A DATE, RIGHT?
YOU THOUGHT I WAS SOME-ONE ELSE.
HUH?
IS THIS THE BASE?
OH, A BLANKET!?
IS IT MORNING? SHOOT, DID I FALL ASLEEP!?
UH...
HUH?
YOU SAID "NA..."
NA?
AAAGH! AAAGH!
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S ACTUALLY...
DID YOU FIND ANY CLUES?
HUH.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE AWOKEN YOU.
S... SORRY...

"CEREMONY FOR REBIRTH."
CEREMONY FOR REBIRTH... PERHAPS.
OH, MY DREAM.
UM... NAO-SAN WAS WALKING THROUGH THE CAVE.
FROM THE OCEAN TOWARD THE COVE, MANY TIMES...
TOUR OF THE WOMB.
...I AM ASSUMING.
I SEE.
BUT I WONDER WHY NAO-SAN IS DOING IT...
ON HER WAY TO REINCAR-NATION, PERHAPS?
THERE ARE SIMILAR PLACES IN SHRINES AND TEMPLES.
A LARGE TUNNEL RESEMBLES YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB.
IF YOU GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND COME OUT, IT SIGNIFIES BEING BORN AGAIN.
REINCARNA-TION? TO BE BORN AGAIN?
YES.
...IT IS DIFFICULT TO COM-PREHEND.

YASUHARA-SAN!?
OH, HELLO, TANIYAMA-SAN.
YEAH...
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
AT THE FRONT.
THEY SHOULD BE COMING...
カラ
SLIDE
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
OH.
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
I FLEW IN FROM OKINAWA.
IT WAS REALLY, REALLY DIFFICULT.
WOW!
YOU JUST CAME? WASN'T IT DIFFICULT?
I KNEW THE PERSON MONK-SAN WAS TALKING TO ON THE PHONE WAS YOU.
ACTUALLY, IT WAS PART PLEASURE, TOO.
I WAS A HOTEL PAGE AT A RESORT.
IN OKINAWA? WHAT KIND OF PART-TIME JOB?
NO, FOR A PART-TIME JOB.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE ABLE TO GET HERE SO SOON. WERE YOU THERE ON VACATION?
OKINAWA !?
WOW

NO PROBLEM.
I SEE. THANK YOU FOR GOING TO SO MUCH TROUBLE.
AND I USED EVERY FORM OF TRANS-PORTATION IMAGINABLE TO GET HERE.
I TOOK LEAVE SAYING THAT MY FRIEND TAKIGAWA WAS NEAR DEATH.
WRONG.
LIKE THIS?
HOW FISHY.
HEH-HEH.
HUH?
SO I WANT YOU TO GO OUT AND GATHER INFORMA-TION.
OH, WE CAN'T MOVE FROM HERE.
WELL? SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WELL, THAT'S THE INFORMATION I NEED.
CONSIDER IT DONE.
UM.
WHEN WAS THE ANSEI ERA?
THE ANSEI PURGE WAS IN 1858.
SO AROUND THEN, I THINK.
YOU WANT ME TO INVESTIGATE?
WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION?
BUT FIRST I HAVE A QUES-TION.
I'LL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS LATER...

ROAAR
ROAAR
GRR
ROAR
WE CAN TAKE OVER...
WHOA.
GRRRR
WE'RE BACK. WE JUST HAD LUNCH.
GRRR
YES.
ROOOAAR
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
IS IT IN EVERY VIDEO?
GRRR
WHEN WE CHECKED LAST NIGHT'S DATA, IT WAS IN THERE.
I DON'T KNOW.
GRROARR
GRROOAR
RROOOAR
WHAT'S MAKING THAT SOUND !?
WHAT... IS THAT?
ROOOOAR


YEAH...
IT'S LIKE A DINOSAUR SLEEPING...
GRRGGG
GRRRR
RRING
RRRRRRIII

THE MAIN HOUSE...
MONK-SAN!
TAKIGAWA-SAN.
ARE YOU OKAY!? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THEY CLIMBED OUT A WINDOW.
AND THE KIDS WERE ALREADY OUTSIDE.

I'LL HELP YOU.
I'LL GET THEM.
YES.
DO YOU HAVE MORE EXTIN-GUISHERS?
HUH?
NARU.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO NARU!?
TAKE CARE...
STAY HERE AND HELP.
LIN-SAN !?
SORRY, AYAKO! HELP HER COLLECT THE EXTIN-GUISHERS!
MAI, WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GO-

MAI!
LIN-SAN...
GAA-ARGH!

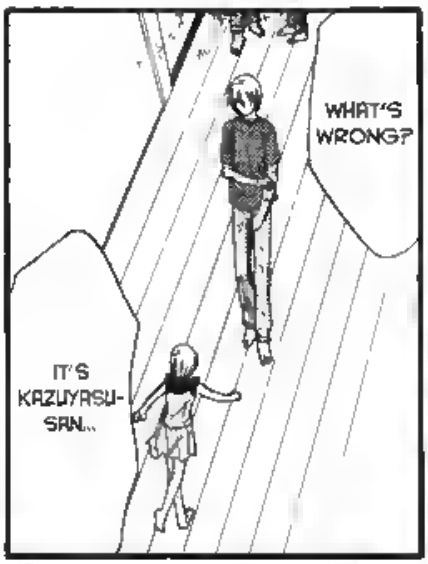
STOP IT.
IF YOU OPEN THAT DOOR, YOU'LL DIE.
KAZUYASU-SAN...
HE'S POSSESSED, TOO!
GRRR!
RIP
THUNK
TWITCH
GAAR-RGH!
IF NARU WAKES UP, IT'S OVER.
THAT KEKKAI WON'T HOLD MUCH LONGER.
IF I DO IT, HE MIGHT GET BADLY HURT.
! BUT I WAS TOLD I CAN'T DO IT.
TANIYAMA-SAN.
WANT TO TRY THE NINE WORDS?

LIN-SAN!
GRRR!
TAP
NARU...
NO.
I CAN'T DO IT!
GRR!
GRR!
GAARH!
TWEEEE!

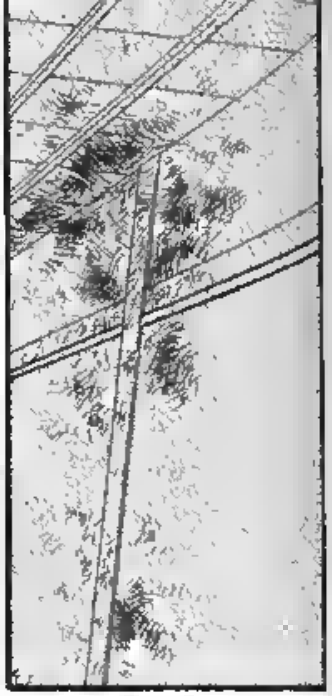
AAAGGGHH!
SCRATCH
WHOOSH
WOOSH
GLARE
URR-GGG...
IT'S DANGER-OUS.
LIN-SAN.
SST

KAZUYASU-SAN.
I'M SORRY!
RIN.
PYOU TOU SHA.
KAI JIN RETSU ZAI.
LIN-SAN!
GRRR!
TAP
ZEN!
GAAARGH!
GASP
はっ
URRGGHH...
GRR...

COUGH
UR...
JUMP
THUD
TANIYAMA-SAN.
PLEASE CALL TAKIGAWA-SAN.
WOBBLE
SEND SOMEONE TO THE BASE!


WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S KAZUYASU-SAN...

MONK-SAN!
HEY! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR BELLY!



YES, SIR!
JOHN!
OKAY.

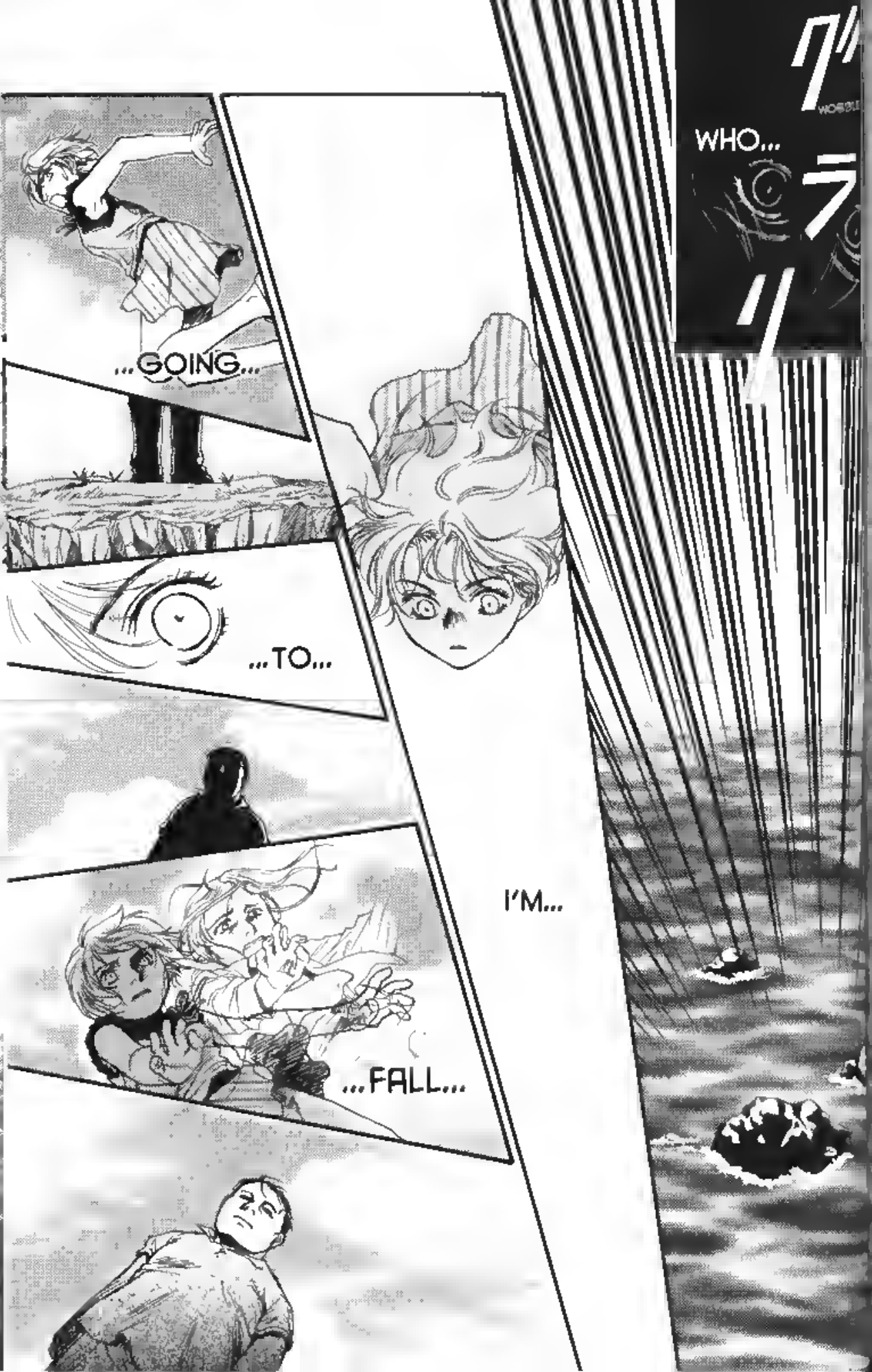
LIN-SAN WANTS YOU, NOW!
HE ATTACKED THE BASE.
AND AFTER HE FOUGHT LIN-SAN, HE RAN OUT...

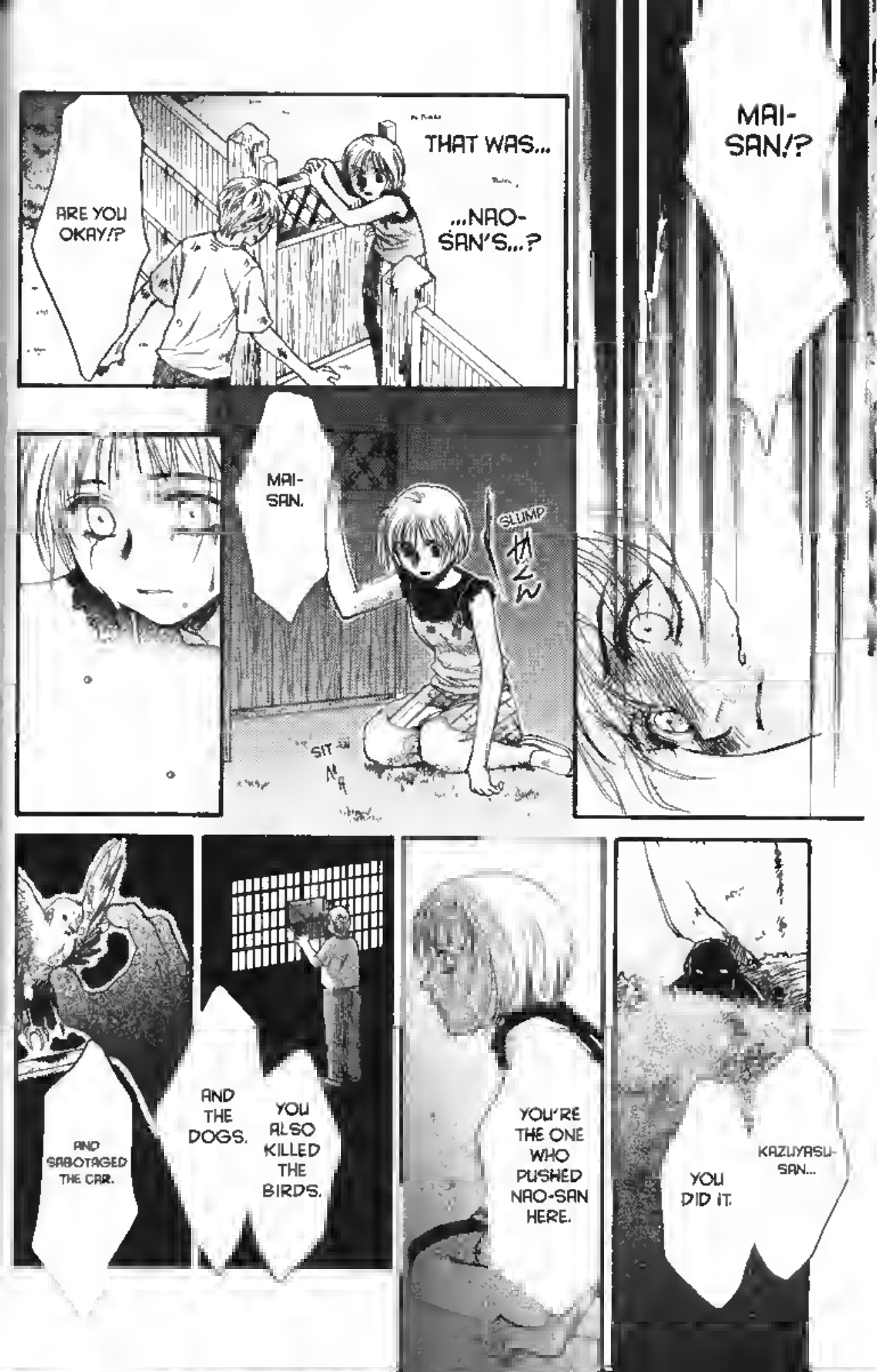
...SO THERE'S SOMETHING ONLY I CAN DO!

I'M WEAK...
I'M GOING WITH THEM!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WAIT, AYAKO. YOU STAY AT THE BASE!
WE'LL GO, TOO.
SO HE CAN'T ATTACK AGAIN.

OVER THERE!
GRRR...
TAKIGAWA-SAN, BE CAREFUL.
HE CAN USE KAMAITACHI.
THUD!
AGH!?
PANT
PANT


WHO...
...GOING...
...TO...
I'M...
...FALL...

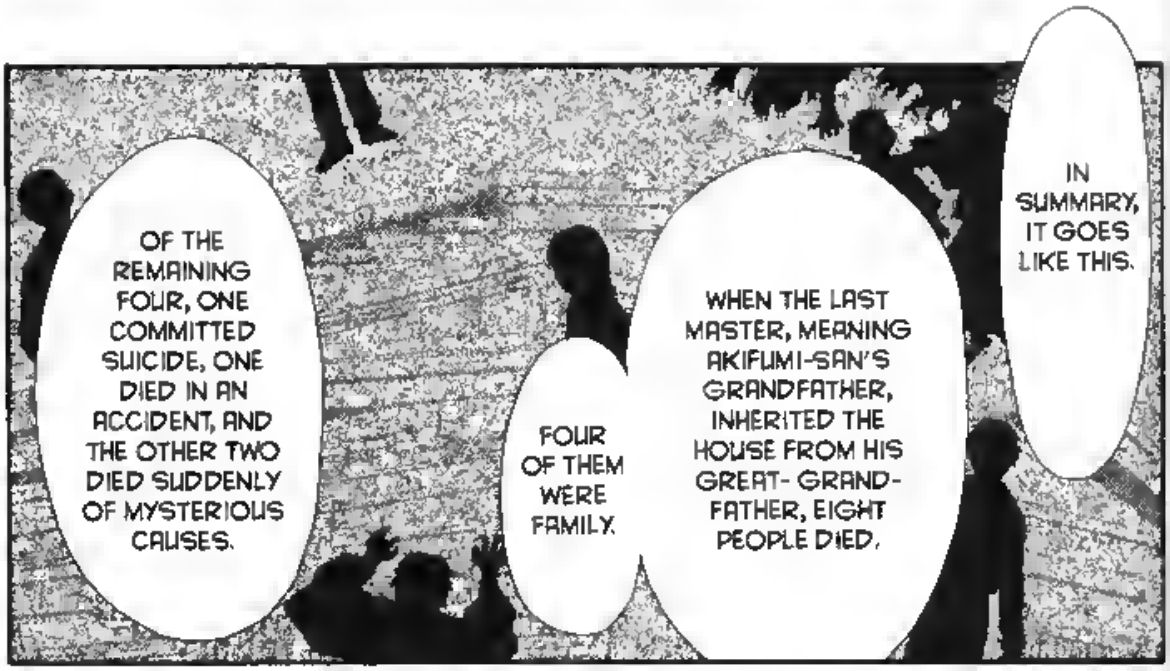

ARE YOU OKAY!?
THAT WAS...
...NAO-SAN'S...?
MAI-SAN.
SLUMP
SIT
MAI-SAN!?
AND SABOTAGED THE CAR.
AND THE DOGS.
YOU ALSO KILLED THE BIRDS.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUSHED NAO-SAN HERE.
KAZUYASU-SAN...
YOU DID IT.

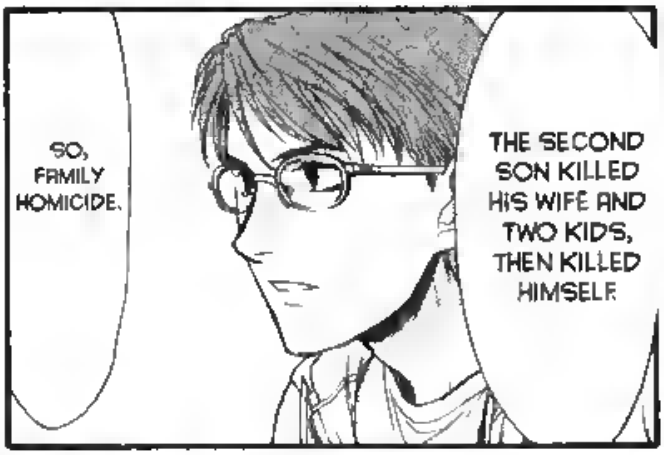
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
GRRR...
IT WAS ALL YOU, WASN'T IT!?
SLICE
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO AWAKEN NARU?
HEH HEH HEH HEH.
HEH.
HEH HEH.
HEH.
WHO ARE YOU!?

DEATH.
THAT WAY IS...
CRACK
WAIT! STOP!
!

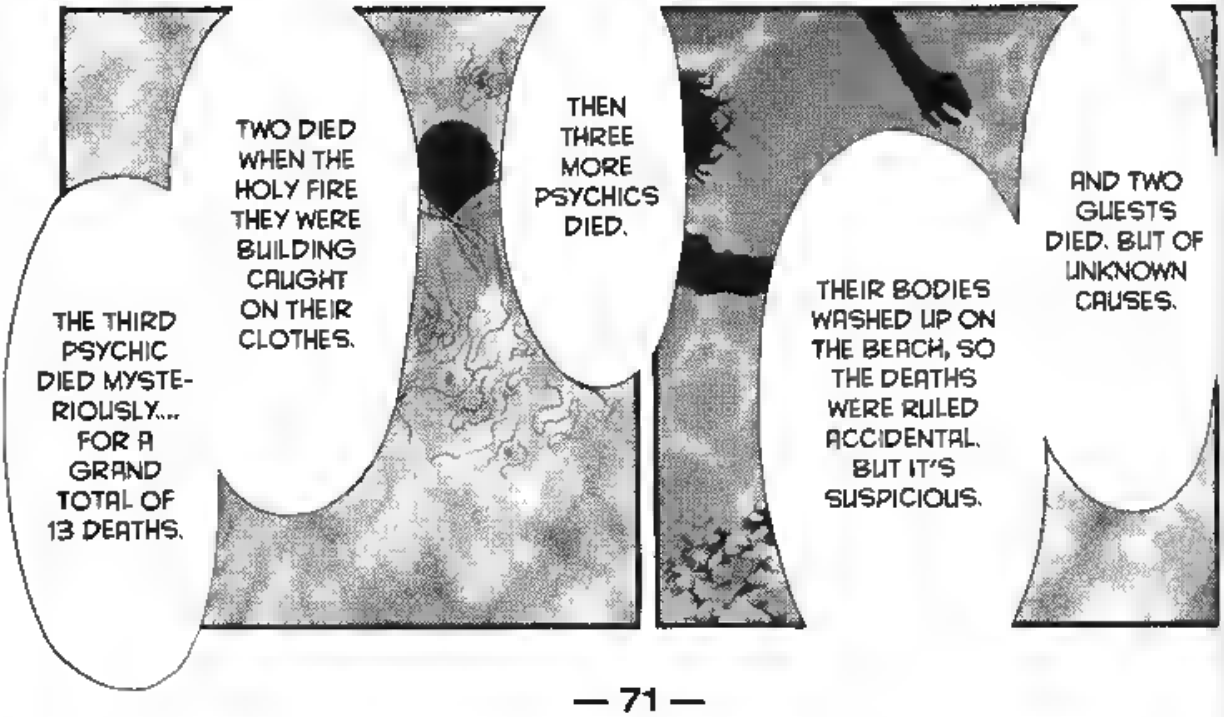
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
WHAT DID WE COME HERE FOR?
THIS IS HORRIBLE.
...OKAY LIKE THIS.
THIS WAS...
...WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HE DID.
AT LEAST HE...
AKIFUMI-SAN!
WHEN DID YOU...

IF WE GIVE UP NOW WITH SO MANY VICTIMS, OUR EFFORTS WILL ALL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.
PLEASE CHEER UP, IT'S NOT OVER YET.
I SEE...
SO THEN, WE SHOULD TAKE CARE OF OUR HOMEWORK!
THUMP
NOW!
YEAH...
THAT'S TRUE.
THANKS.
HOME-WORK, EH?
FIRST, THIS NEWSPAPER CLIPPING HAS SOME INFORMA-TION YOU WANTED.
THIS IS THE PREVIOUS MASTER, AND THIS, THE MASTER BEFORE THAT.


IN SUMMARY, IT GOES LIKE THIS.
WHEN THE LAST MASTER, MEANING AKIFUMI-SAN'S GRANDFATHER, INHERITED THE HOUSE FROM HIS GREAT- GRAND-FATHER, EIGHT PEOPLE DIED.
FOUR OF THEM WERE FAMILY.
OF THE REMAINING FOUR, ONE COMMITTED SUICIDE, ONE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, AND THE OTHER TWO DIED SUDDENLY OF MYSTERIOUS CAUSES.


THE SECOND SON KILLED HIS WIFE AND TWO KIDS, THEN KILLED HIMSELF
SO, FAMILY HOMICIDE.

FAMILY, EH?
YES.


AND TWO GUESTS DIED. BUT OF UNKNOWN CAUSES.
THEIR BODIES WASHED UP ON THE BEACH, SO THE DEATHS WERE RULED ACCIDENTAL. BUT IT'S SUSPICIOUS.
THEN THREE MORE PSYCHICS DIED.
TWO DIED WHEN THE HOLY FIRE THEY WERE BUILDING CAUGHT ON THEIR CLOTHES.
THE THIRD PSYCHIC DIED MYSTE-RIOUSLY... FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 13 DEATHS.

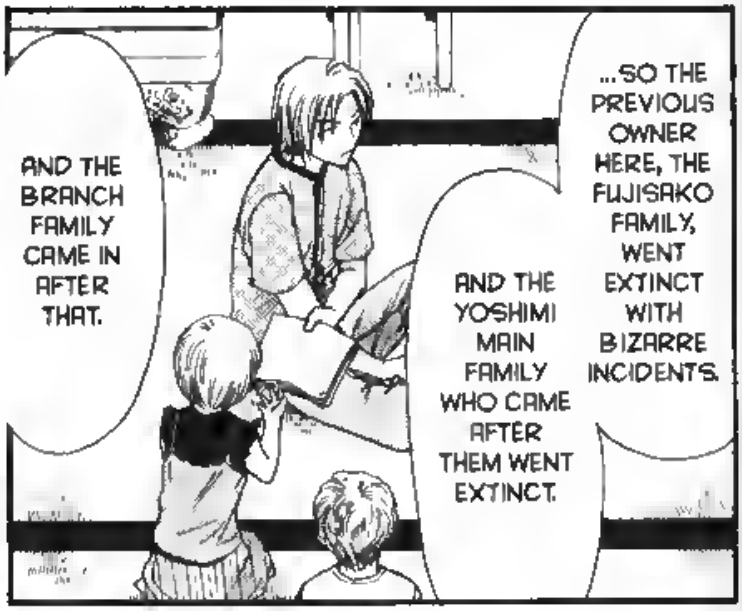
THIRTEEN...
DURING THE GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S TIME, THE NEWSPAPERS SAY SIX FAMILY MEMBERS DIED.
BUT IT WAS LONG AGO, SO IT'S NOT CLEAR IF IT REALLY WAS ONLY SIX.
APPARENTLY THEY DIED FROM POISON IN THE WELL...
THIS HAPPENED WHEN THEY JUST MOVED HERE FROM KANAZAWA.
...SO GREAT-GREAT GRAND-FATHER DIED AFTER THEY MOVED HERE.
SO IT SEEMS.
HE DIED AT 78, SO HE WAS PRETTY OLD.
I THINK HIS SON HAD ALREADY INHERITED THE STORE BY THEN.
THIS IS THE DEATH BOOK.
OH, YOU WERE ABLE TO COPY IT?
YES.
I WENT TO THE TEMPLE EARLY IN THE MORNING, COPIED IT, WENT TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND THEN WENT TO KANAZAWA...
CURRENT LOCATION
KANAZAWA
SOMETHING LIKE THIS
YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO KANAZAWA !?

BUT...
"EVERY TIME THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE CHANGES, BIZARRE INCIDENTS OCCUR."
THE GRAND-MOTHER SAID THIS, RIGHT?
AND I WAS LOOKING AT THE COPY AND NOTICED SOME-THING.
I WENT ALL OVER.
YES, I DID.
...THE LAST MASTER AND THE ONE BEFORE THAT.
...THE TIMES A LARGE NUMBER OF DEATHS OCCURRED WITH THE YOSHIMI HOUSE WAS ONLY DURING...
AND WHAT I SUSPECT IS...
AND I GOT COPIES OF ALL THE DEATH BOOKS OF THE MAIN FAMILY AND BRANCH FAMILY.
SO ON THE WAY HOME I WENT TO THE TEMPLE AGAIN.

...HAVE ONLY EXPERIENCED INCIDENTS SINCE THEY MOVED HERE.
AKIFUMI-SAN'S FAMILY..
...WHICH IS THE KANAZAWA BRANCH FAMILY..
...THE PROBLEM IS NOT WITH THE YOSHIMI FAMILY, BUT THIS LOCATION.
BUT FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE BRANCH FAMILY MOVED HERE, THE MAIN FAMILY HAD ALL DIED.
BEFORE THAT, THE MAIN FAMILY WAS LIVING HERE.
BUT THE FUJISAKO FAMILY WENT EXTINCT IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ANSEI.
IT WAS OWNED BY A FAMILY CALLED FUJISAKO.
BEFORE THAT, THERE WAS NO YOSHIMI HOUSE IN THIS AREA.
IN ADDITION, WHEN THE MAIN FAMILY MOVED HERE, THE FIRST DEATH HAP-PENED IN THE THIRD YEAR OF THE ANSEI ERA.

SO I BEGGED THE CHIEF PRIEST AND OBTAINED COPIES OF THE DEATH BOOK OF THE FUJISAKO FAMILY.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE ONLY THE LAST TWO GENERATIONS LEFT.
TA-DA
CLAP CLAP
AMAZING!
YOU'RE A GENIUS!
RIGHT?

SO I LOOKED UP THE HISTORY AND LEGENDS FOR AROUND THIS AREA.
RIGHT?
I SEE, THIS LOCATION, EH?
THIS.
WHAT?


AND THE BRANCH FAMILY CAME IN AFTER THAT.
...SO THE PREVIOUS OWNER HERE, THE FUJISAKO FAMILY, WENT EXTINCT WITH BIZARRE INCIDENTS.
AND THE YOSHIMI MAIN FAMILY WHO CAME AFTER THEM WENT EXTINCT.

I WENT AROUND LOOKING FOR BORED SCHOOLGIRLS TO WORK FOR ME.

INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME LOOKING THROUGH NEWSPAPERS IN THE LIBRARY, GUESS WHAT I DID?
WHAT?
I'M EFFICIENT.
HEH HEH HEH
YOU LOOKED ALL OF THIS UP IN JUST ONE DAY? WITH THE TRIP TO KANAZAWA!?
どっちゃり
PILE

I SHOULD MAXIMIZE MY MAN-POWER, RIGHT?
SO I HIRED ONE PERSON IN KANAZAWA TO MAKE COPIES...
AND KEPT IN TOUCH WITH ANOTHER PERSON HERE WHILE I COLLECTED ALL OF THIS.
は WOW...
AND I CAN PAY THEM WITH MONEY FROM SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH, RIGHT?
WHY NOT.
HA HA HA
THAT'S A RELIEF!
! OH YEAH.
I CAME UPON A RATHER INTERESTING STORY.
IT'S A COMMON FOLK TALE OF "FOREIGNER KILLING."
FOREIGNER... KILLING?

GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

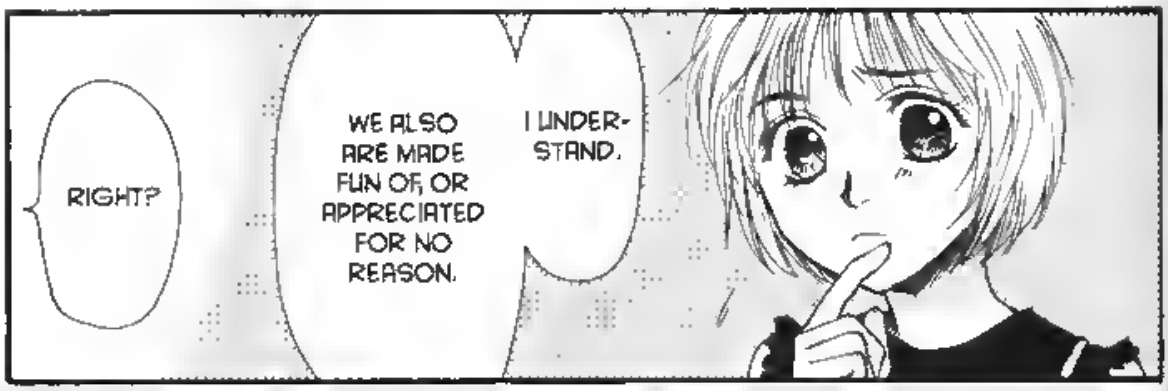
FILE 7

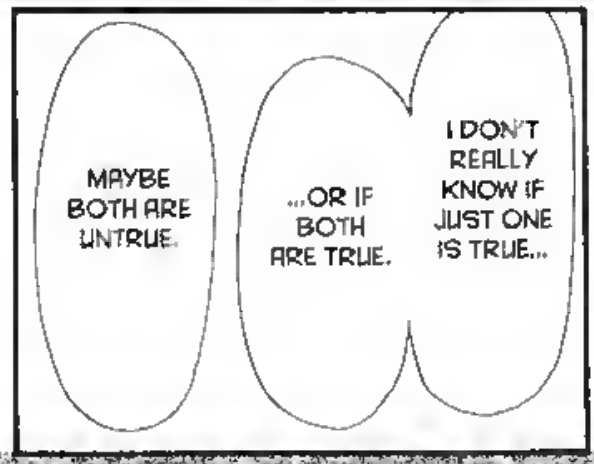
IN THE OLD DAYS, A VILLAGE WAS A CLOSED SOCIETY.
ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE WERE RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS.
SO LET'S SAY A MERCHANT HAPPENS ALONG
THE MERCHANT HAS NO BLOOD RELATION OR TERRITORIAL CONNECTION TO THE VILLAGERS.
HE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE VILLAGERS.
MEANING HE IS AN OUTSIDER.
IN THIS CASE, ANY OUTSIDER CAN BE CONSIDERED A FOREIGNER.
AND THERE ARE MANY FOLK TALES IN VARIOUS AREAS ABOUT KILLING THIS OUTSIDER, AND THESE MURDERS WERE CALLED FOREIGNER KILLINGS.
AND THE FOREIGNERS IN THE OLD DAYS ARE SMALLER IN RANGE.
USUALLY THE ONES KILLED WERE MAREBITO.
WAIT!
BACK UP A LITTLE.
ACK!

FOREIGNER KILLING.

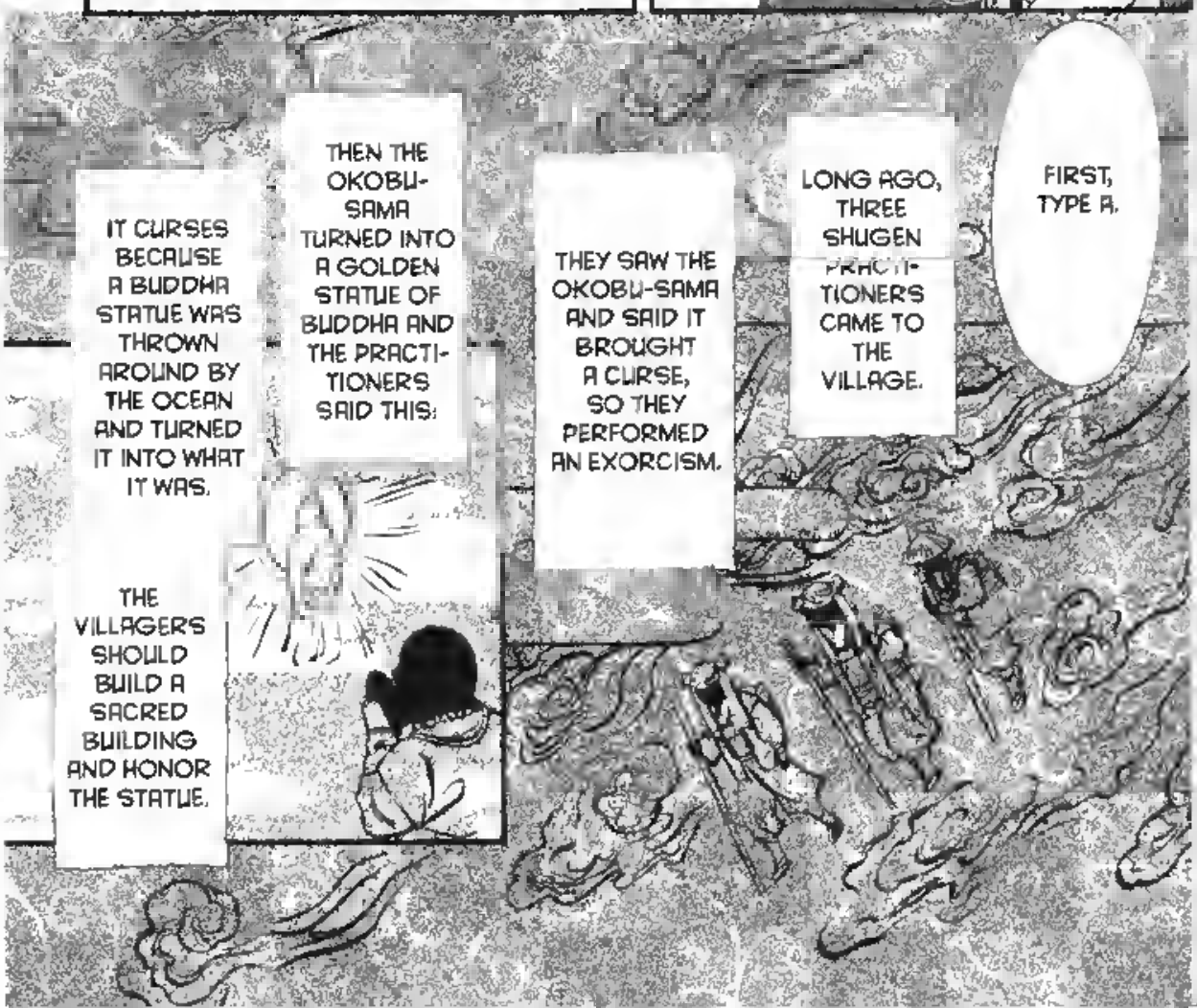
WHAT'S A MAREBITO?
OH, SORRY.
A MAREBITO IS A TERM USED BY SHINOBU ORIGUCHI.
OH, I GUESS I SHOULDN'T GO INTO THAT.
MAREBITO IS A "GOD WHO ARRIVES."
SO THAT PERSON COMES TO BLESS AND ADVISE? LIKE A GOD WOULD?
SUBSTI-TUTE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO EXPANDING ON THAT IDEA, PEOPLE WHO COME TO A VILLAGE AND ACT AS GODS ARE CALLED MAREBITO.
THEY COME TO THE VILLAGE AND BLESS THE VILLAGERS OR ADVISE THEM.
AND THEY ALSO HAVE SUPER-NATURAL POWERS.
THEY CAN COMMUNICATE WITH GODS AND BUDDHAS AND NYMPHS, SO THEY DO THAT, TOO.
THEY MAKE PREDIC-TIONS OR WISH FOR A GOOD HARVEST.
THEY MAKE IT RAIN, GET RID OF BAD LUCK...
OTHER TIMES THEY'LL DRIVE AWAY APPARI-TIONS OR PERFORM EXORCISMS.
HUH?

AND THAT CONNECTS TO THE FOREIGNER KILLINGS.
AND THERE ARE MANY FOLK TALES IN JAPAN ABOUT KILLING THOSE MAREBITO.
SO MIKO AND TRAVELING MONKS WERE REFERRED TO AS MAREBITO.
YEAH!
WE'RE OUTSIDERS AND WE PERFORM EXORCISMS.
SO THAT MEANS WE'RE ALSO MAREBITO?
THAT'S IT.
BUT THERE WAS A FEAR OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU KILLED A MAREBITO AND THAT'S PROBABLY HOW THE LEGEND STARTED.
IT IS UNKNOWN IF THERE ACTUALLY EVER WAS A CURSE.
BUT AFTER THEY ARE KILLED, THEIR EXISTENCE CAN CURSE.
THAT'S WHY THEIR LIVES ARE NOT VALUED AND THEY ARE KILLED FOR TRIVIAL REASONS.
MAREBITO WERE SCORNED AS WELL AS FEARED.
USUALLY THE MAREBITO WHO VISIT A VILLAGE ARE KILLED BECAUSE THEY HAVE RICHES.
AND AS A RESULT, A CURSE IS INFLICTED.


I UNDERSTAND.
WE ALSO ARE MADE FUN OF, OR APPRECIATED FOR NO REASON.
RIGHT?


I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF JUST ONE IS TRUE...
...OR IF BOTH ARE TRUE.
MAYBE BOTH ARE UNTRUE.

AND THIS FOREIGNER KILLING I FOUND...
...THERE ARE TWO PATTERNS.


FIRST, TYPE A.
LONG AGO, THREE SHUGEN PRACTITIONERS CAME TO THE VILLAGE.
THEY SAW THE OKOBU-SAMA AND SAID IT BROUGHT A CURSE, SO THEY PERFORMED AN EXORCISM.
THEN THE OKOBU-SAMA TURNED INTO A GOLDEN STATUE OF BUDDHA AND THE PRACTITIONERS SAID THIS:
IT CURSES BECAUSE A BUDDHA STATUE WAS THROWN AROUND BY THE OCEAN AND TURNED IT INTO WHAT IT WAS.
THE VILLAGERS SHOULD BUILD A SACRED BUILDING AND HONOR THE STATUE.

LONG AGO, THREE MONKS CAME TO THE VILLAGE.
THEY SAW OKOBU-SAMA AND SAID THAT IT WAS A GOD AND THE VILLAGERS SHOULD CREATE A SHRINE TO HONOR IT.
HOWEVER, THE VILLAGERS DID NOT HAVE MUCH MONEY TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE BAD CROP THAT YEAR.
IN ADDITION, ONE OF THE VILLAGERS SEES THAT THE MONKS HAVE A LOT OF MONEY.
THE VILLAGER INVITES THE MONKS TO THE ELDER'S HOUSE, PUTS POISON IN THE FOOD AND KILLS THEM, THEN STEALS THEIR MONEY AND THROWS THE CORPSES INTO THE OCEAN.
HE THEN MADE A SHRINE TO HONOR OKOBU-SAMA AND MADE MOUNDS FOR THE MONKS.
AFTERWARD, THUNDERSTORMS AND HIGH WAVES WOULDN'T STOP, SO THE VILLAGER REGRETTED HIS ACTIONS.
AND TYPE B GOES LIKE THIS.
HOWEVER, THE VILLAGE ELDER KILLED THE PRACTITIONERS AT THE BEACH BECAUSE OF GREED FOR THE GOLDEN STATUE.
AS SOON AS THE PRACTITIONERS WERE MURDERED, THE STATUE TURNED BACK INTO A WOODEN STICK.
AND SOON AFTER, THE ELDER'S HOUSE HAD UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS AND WENT EXTINCT. IT WAS SAID TO BE THE PRACTITIONERS' CURSE...

ONLY THEN DID THE DISASTERS STOP AND THEY WERE BLESSED WITH A GOOD HARVEST AFTER THAT.
THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES TO THE TWO TALES.
BUT THE MAREBITO ARE KILLED BY GREEDY VILLAGERS.
THREE MAREBITO COME TO THE VILLAGE AND SAY SOMETHING ABOUT OKOBU-SAMA.
BOTH STORIES HAVE THE OKOBU-SAMA.
I THINK AN INCIDENT OCCURRED THAT WAS THE BASIS FOR THE TALE AND AS IT CIRCULATED, IT GREW INTO TWO VERSIONS.
A LEGEND CALLED "ABOUT OKOBUTSU-SAMA."
SO I RESEARCHED THE LOCAL HISTORY AND FOUND THIS.
SO YOU THINK THERE WAS ACTUALLY A CASE LIKE THAT IN THE PAST?
I THINK SO.
AND THE END RESULT IS THAT BAD THINGS HAPPENED TO THE VILLAGE.
AND WHERE THEY DIED, OR WHERE THEIR BODIES WERE THROWN INTO, IS THE OCEAN.
THE CRIME IS RELATED TO THE ELDER.
BOTH STORY OUTLINES ARE THE SAME SO I TEND TO THINK IT'S NOT JUST A LEGEND.

OKOBUTSU-SAMA? NOT OKOBU-SAMA?
RIGHT.
BUT IT'S SIMILAR TO THE TYPE A STORY.
A WOODEN STICK WASHED ON SHORE AND WHEN THEY SHOWED IT TO A MONK, THE MONK SAID IT WAS A BUDDHA.
WHEN HE RECITED A SUTRA, IT TURNED INTO A GOLDEN STATUE, BUT WHEN THE MORNING CAME IT RETURNED TO THE WOODEN STICK.
EVER SINCE, THEY CALL IT OKOBUTSU-SAMA AND HONOR IT.
THREE PRACTI-TIONERS.
OR MONKS—
WHAT IS IT?
THE MOUNDS AT THE SHRINE.
OH, THE TOHACHI MOUNDS?
THERE WERE THREE MOUNDS, RIGHT? ALSO CALLED SANROKU MOUNDS.
THAT PROBABLY MEANS THREE ROKU MOUNDS.
THAT'S POSSIBLE.
THEN WHAT ARE ROKU MOUNDS?
MAYBE ROKUBU MOUNDS?
AH!

MONK-SAN, MONK-SAN.
WHAT ARE ROKUBU?
"THEY BUILT A SHRINE AND MADE MOUNDS."
THEN THE LAST PART OF VERSION B FITS PERFECTLY.
SO THE THREE ROKUBU MOUNDS WERE SHORTENED TO SANROKU MOUNDS.
I SEE!
THEY'RE TRAVELING MONKS WHO CARRY TRANSCRIBED BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES TO 66 SACRED GROUNDS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
THEY HAVE THEM FOR EACH OF THE 66 AREAS, SO THEY'RE CALLED "ROKUJUU-ROKU (66) BU" OR "ROKUBU."
RSTL
WH-WHAT?
I FOUND AN ORAL EPIC ABOUT ROKUBU MOUNDS SOME-WHERE.
THIS ONE!
SO THEY'RE ALSO "MAREBITO."
THEY STARTED CALLING TRAVELING MONKS THAT, TOO.
BUT EVENTUALLY THEY WERE REPRESSED.
THERE WAS ONCE A FAMINE AND THE VILLAGERS REBELLED IN A RIOT...
IT DOESN'T SAY WHEN, BUT...

THEY WERE TOLD THAT IF THEY TURNED IN THE RING-LEADER THE VILLAGERS WOULD BE SPARED...
SO THAT'S WHAT THEY DID.
THE RING-LEADER TRIED TO RUN AWAY BUT HE WAS CAUGHT AT THE ROKUBU MOUNDS
PURSUERS...
AND THAT'S WHERE THEY BEHEADED HIM.
THAT DREAM...
FROM THEN ON, THE VILLAGE HAD CONTINUOUS PLAGUES AND WEIRD INCIDENTS, AND THEY THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE CURSE OF THE RINGLEADER.
THEY EVENTU-ALLY BUILT A TEMPLE AND GAVE FULL HONOR TO THE GRAVE, AND THAT'S WHEN THE INCIDENTS FINALLY STOPPED.
THEY MADE A GRAVE NEXT TO THE ROKUBU MOUNDS BUT THE PROBLEMS CONTINUED.
...THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.
THERE'S MORE.
...THAT'S HERE, ISN'T IT?
NEXT TO ROKUBU MOUNDS...

A RING-LEADER OF A RIOT WAS BEHEADED NEAR THE ROKUBU MOUNDS.
THEY MADE A GRAVE AND PAID THEIR RESPECTS.
BUT IF ANYONE DISTURBS THE GRAVE, THEY'LL DEVELOP A WEIRD RASH ON THEIR NECK.
EVENTUALLY IT'LL ROT AND THEY'LL LOSE THEIR HEAD.
RASH ON THE NECK...
ACCORDING TO LOCAL HISTORY,
ONLY ONE RIOT HAS EVER OCCURRED IN THIS AREA...
IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE BUNKYU ERA.
SO IN 1862, A RIOT OCCURRED.
AND FIVE RING-LEADERS WERE BEHEADED.
FIVE...
SAME AS THE DREAM.
SO THAT RIOT IN 1862 AND THE ROKUBU MOUNDS ARE PROBABLY CONNECTED.
FIVE RING-LEADERS, AND THEY HAVE GRAVES NEXT TO THE SHRINE...
THAT'S WHAT THOSE ROCKS IN THE YARD ARE!

THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT—
I'LL CURSE THEM FOR GENERA-, TIONS TO COME!
THE RING-LEADER WHO WAS BETRAYED BY THE VILLAGERS AND KILLED...
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DETERMINE.
THE FIVE FROM THE RIOT OR THE THREE ROKUBU.
WHICH DO YOU THINK IT IS?
MONK-SAN?
WELL, THEN.
WE SHOULD GO.
...CAN I SUGGEST SOME-THING?
IT SHOULD COME BACK SOON.
WHAT IS IT?
LIN-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
BECAUSE OF TODAY'S INCIDENT, ONE OF MY SHIKI WAS BLOWN AWAY. IF I DON'T STAY HERE, NARU WILL BE LEFT VULNERABLE.
I CAN'T GO.
RIGHT.
JOHN, LET'S SPLIT UP.
IF THAT'S THE CASE...

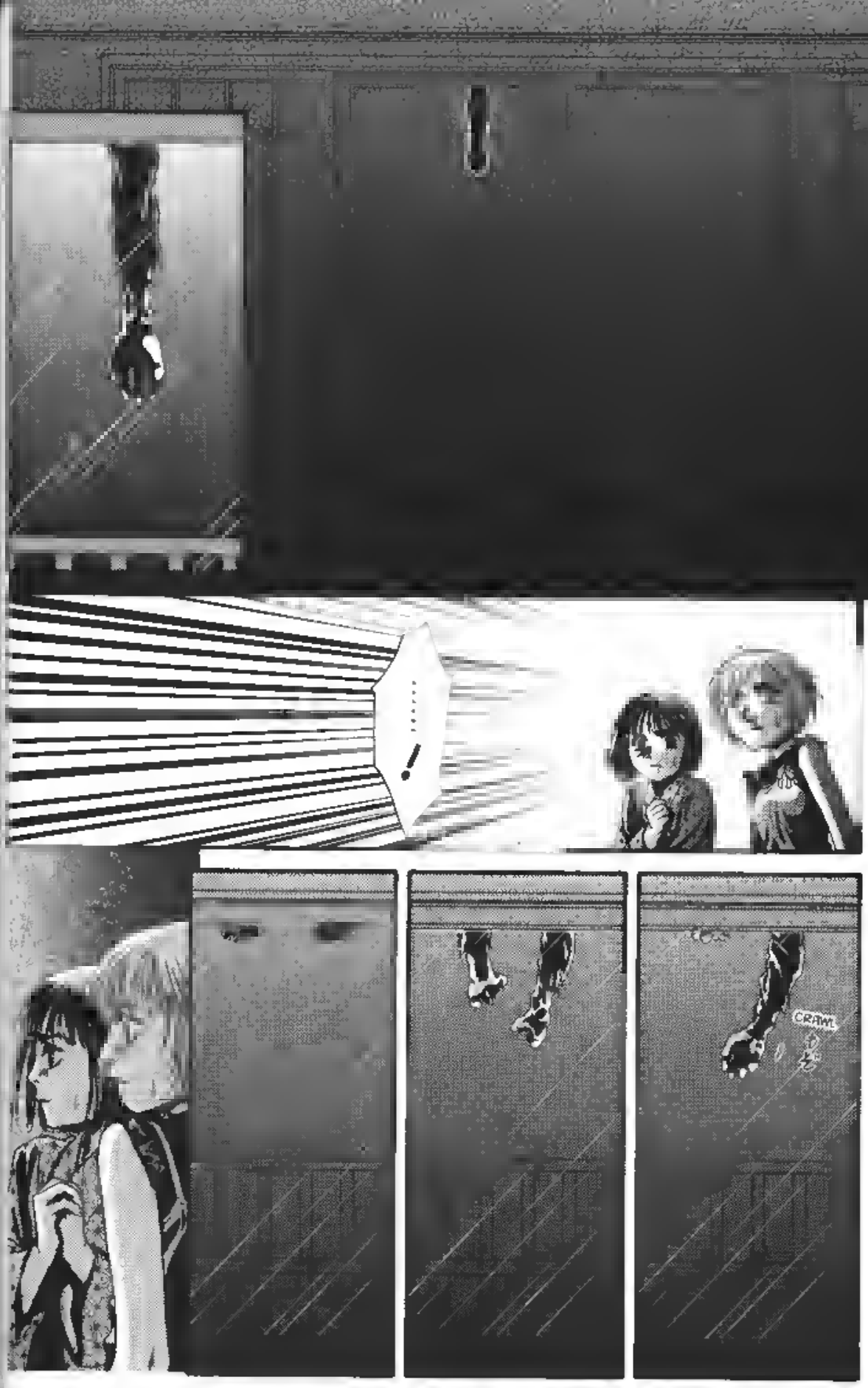
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD SPLIT UP.
YOU'LL FACE MAJOR RESISTANCE.
...THEN I GUESS...
...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE NUMEROUS ONES FIRST.
WE'LL START WITH THE FIVE FROM THE RIOT...
KABOOM
WHAT?
THE HALL-WAYS?
PEEEEEEEP
CLATTER
IS SOMEONE RUNNING THERE?

PEEEEEEP
ERR
ERRO
I CAN'T SEE IT.
C5
ALL THE THERMO-GRAPHS ARE CRASH-ING.
ER
PEEP
C4
C2
PEEP
TAKIGAWA SAN THE TEMPERA-TURE IS DROPPING.
THE MONITORS...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
KSHHHH
KSHHHH
KSHHHHH

SPOKEN LIKE AN EXPERIENCED PLAYBOY.
I SEE.
AND USUALLY THOSE ARE THE PERSISTENT ONES.
I SEE. IF SHE'S UGLY, THEN IT'S JUST UNPLEASANT.
IF IT'S A PRETTY LADY, YES.
WELL, THAT'S OUR GRIN, NO?
LET'S STAY ON TASK
HEY...
GRR
GRRROOOARR
JUST WHEN WE THINK OF GOING, THEY COME VISITING INSTEAD.
...I GUESS, THEY ATTACKED FIRST.
GGRR-ROOOAR
ROOOAAR
ROOOAAR
"DINOSAUR SLEEPING."
NO.
LISTEN CAREFULLY.
RRROOOAR
RRR
RRROOOAR
RROOOOAAARRR
GRR-ROOOAR
GRR-ROOOAR
GRRRRR

...HUH?
THESE ARE...
...SUTRAS?
I'M GOING, TOO.
AYAKO!?
JOHN AND I WILL GO TAKE A LOOK.
OKAY, YOU GIRLS STAY HERE.
IT'LL MAKE SENSE IF IT'S THE ROKUBU.
SO THE CULPRITS ARE THE THREE.

IF YOU'RE A PROFES-SIONAL YOU SURE HAVEN'T PROVEN IT YET/
BUT HERE, I CAN DO IT.
CIRCUM-STANCES HAVEN'T ALLOWED IT/
THAT'S NOT MY FAULT.
DON'T PUT ME TOGETHER WITH YOU.
IF WE GO, WE'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.
HE TOLD US TO STAY.
I'M A PROFESSIONAL.
FOOSH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HERE SHE CAN DO IT?
MASAKO, WHAT'S WRONG?
...LOOK/
AAAGH!
THE LIGHTS/


!
CRAWL

TAP
TAP
TAP
SCRATCH
KNOCK

YASUHARA-SAN, SIT HERE.
THUMP!
THUMP!
KNOCK!
KNOCK
KNOCK!
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
THUD!
THUD!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUD!
THE WINDOW...
CRACK
THUD
THUD!
THUD!
THUD!

WHEEE
RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN RETSU ZAI ZEN!
MAI!
THOSE ARE LEMURS, SO GO AHEAD AND ATTACK!
UH... OKAY!
WHIFF!
CREAK

CREAK
CRACK
DRAG
...WHY...
WHY IS NAO-SAN...
NAO-SAN!
MAI!
GET ON WITH IT!

RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN RETSU ZEN GYOU!
THAT'S THE ROOM NARU'S IN.
I CAN'T!
UH...
BUT...
CREAK
HEY.
OR AT LEAST TRYING TO RELEASE THE SPIRIT POSSESSING HIM—?
ARE THEY HERE FOR NARU?

AAGH!
TRICKLE
KEMPI TECHNIQUE
JIRO-SAN
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
LIN-SAN TOO...
AYAKO!
RIN.
SLICE
URG..
SLICE
DAMN.
CREAK
CREAK
SLICE
PYOU...
OW...

WE CAN'T...
...FIGHT THEM OURSELVES!
THUNK
DODGE
ON.
KIRI KIRI BAZARA BAJIRI HORA MANDA MANDA UNHATTA.
ON SARA SARA BAZARA HARA KYARA UNHATTA.
ON BISO HORA DARAKI SHA BAZAAR HAN JARA UNHATTA.
ON AMI RITO DO HANBA UNHATTA.
WOOOOOSA
ON SHA UGYAREI MAKA SAN MAEN SOWAKA!
ON ASAN MAGINI UNHATTA.

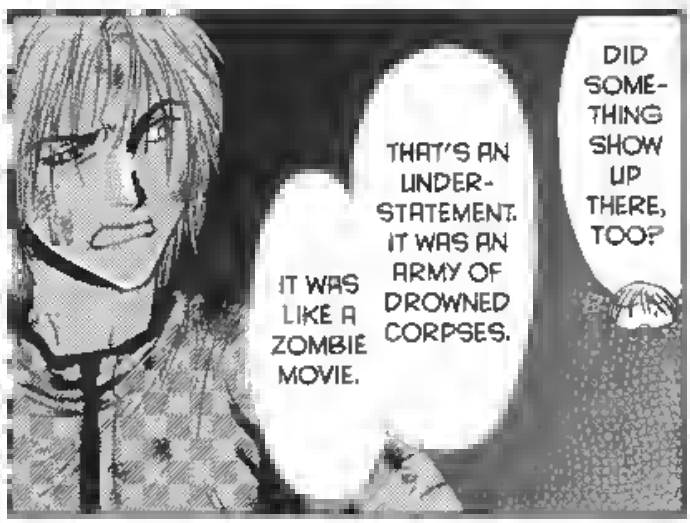
PEEK

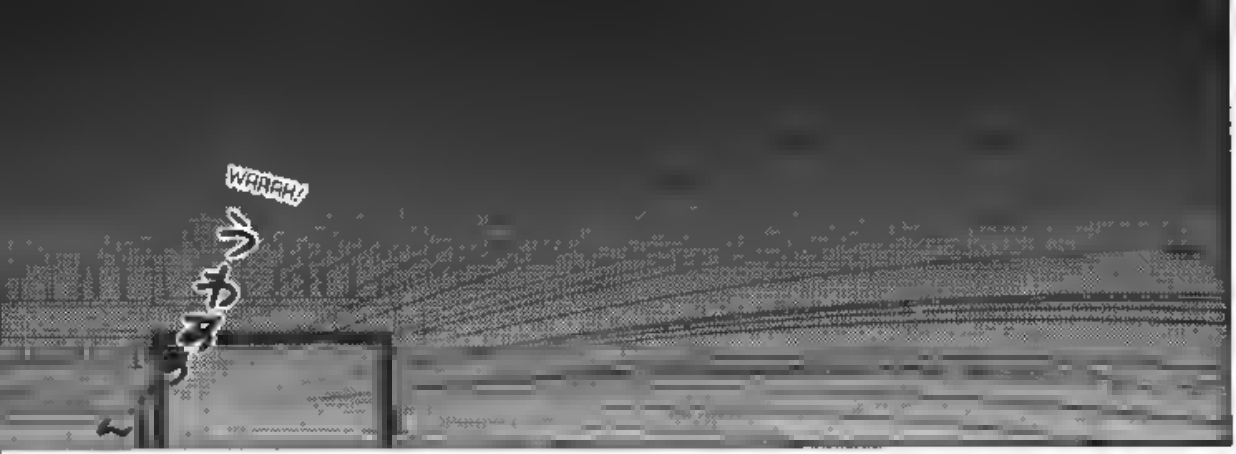
WOOSH
THUMP!

...GETTING PAST...
...THIS, BASTARDS...!
DAMN YOU.
...TRY...
THUNK
PHEWWWW

LEADING THE YOUNG MASTER AND THEM.
THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.
PHEW!
THUMP
WHERE'S BROWN-SAN?

PHEW!
SLUMP


IT WAS LIKE A ZOMBIE MOVIE.
THAT'S AN UNDER-STATEMENT. IT WAS AN ARMY OF DROWNED CORPSES.
DID SOME-THING SHOW UP THERE, TOO?


WAAAH!
うわぁ

UM...
...OH.
GO AHEAD! GO.!

WAS THAT KATSUKI KUN?
DAMN IT!

ARE YOU OKAY!?
THIS WAY! WE'LL BE SAFE IN THE BASE!
JOHN!
SPLASH
WAAH
DON'T TOUCH THOSE WHITE THINGS.
THEY'RE DANGEROUS!
OH.
HUH?
WOOSH
THUNK

UHH...?
A... AYAKO...
MAI!?
TREMBLE TREMBLE
...BEEN STABBED.
SLUMP
I'VE...

...IT'S GONE.
WHAT?
MAI?
...BLOOD...
I THOUGHT FOR SURE I WAS STABBED...
WHAT HAPPENED!?
SLUMP
!
MONK-SAN!
MONK-SAN...
WHAT?
LOOK OUT!

KYATA HANJA SAHADA YA SOWAKA!
NO, NOT AT ALL!
DAMMIT!
ARE YOU OKAY?
THERE'S NO INJURY BUT I FEEL THE PAIN
...OW..
WHAT IS THIS?
WOOSH
A...
RED LIGHT...?
NOW'S OUR CHANCE. RUN!
OH.
UH, RIGHT.

SLIDE
PANT
PANT
PANT
GOOD, EVERY-ONE'S SAFE.
TANIYAMA-SAN!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
SO...
THEY SHOULD GO AWAY AT DAWN
WE WAIT 'TIL MORNING
I'D PAY A MILLION YEN...
NO.
...ARE YOU... OKAY?
IF I COULD JUST FALL ASLEEP RIGHT NOW...
ROLL
IF I REST, THIS KEKKAI WILL DISPERSE, TOO.
IT SEEMS TO BE FINE NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A REST?
WAVE WAVE

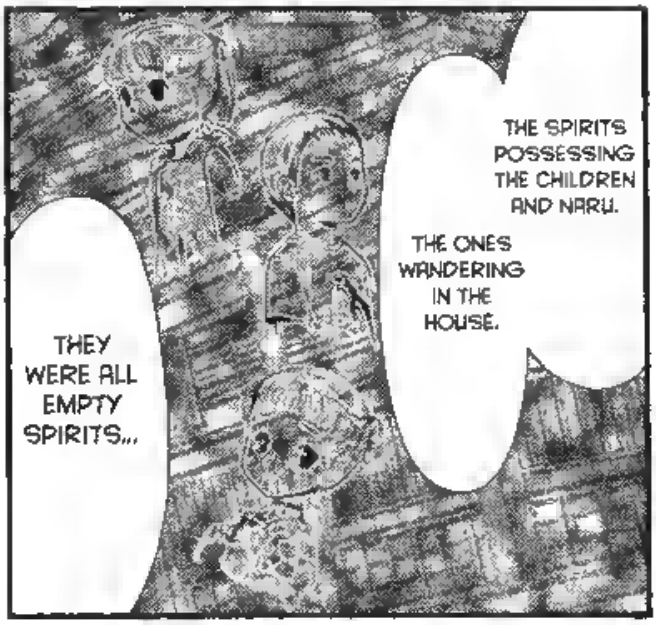
HOW ABOUT NARU? IS HE OKAY?
HE'S FINE.
THEY DIDN'T WAKE HIM.
I'M FINE IT'S NO BIG DEAL
BUT I SHOULD AT LEAST CLEAN THEM
...YOU THINK?
THEN...
DOO
MINOR SCRATCHES.
MEW
LET ME SEE YOUR WOUNDS.
TANIYAMA-SAN
SHALL I POUR THE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE OVER YOUR HEAD?
EEK!
PERVERT!
OKAY LET ME LOOK.
I GUESS IF YOU CAN JOKE AROUND YOU'RE NOT THAT BAD
NOOO.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING...
VERY BAD
BUT I DON'T WANT A GUY PLAYING DOCTOR WITH ME.
TAKIGAWA-KUN. HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS?

YEEE-OOOOWW!
EEEEEEEP
STRUGGLE STRUGGLE
PAT
OKAY.
THIS WILL STING.
OH PLEASE... DON'T CREEP US OUT!
NICE TO MEET YOU
WELL, TONIGHT I'LL BE A GIRL!
YOU'RE A MAN ENDURE IT!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

GLANCE
I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
THAT IS YOUR SHIKI?

WHAT'S UP?
MY SHIKI CAME BACK. NOW I HAVE ALL FIVE.
TAKIGAWA-SAN CAN SLEEP NOW.

I KNOW WHY THE SPIRITS IN THIS HOUSE WERE SO EMPTY.


THE SPIRITS POSSESSING THE CHILDREN AND NARU.
THE ONES WANDERING IN THE HOUSE.
THEY WERE ALL EMPTY SPIRITS...

YOU CAN FEEL IT?
YES.
AND NOW I UNDER-STAND.

...BECAUSE THEY ARE FAMILIAR SPIRITS OF ANOTHER.

...THEIR RESENTMENT SO PAINFUL THEY'RE RESTLESS AND USING THEM AS SHIKI.
SOMEONE IS USING THEIR RESENT-MENT...
THEY'RE NOT ACTING BY THEIR OWN WILL.

GHOST HUNT

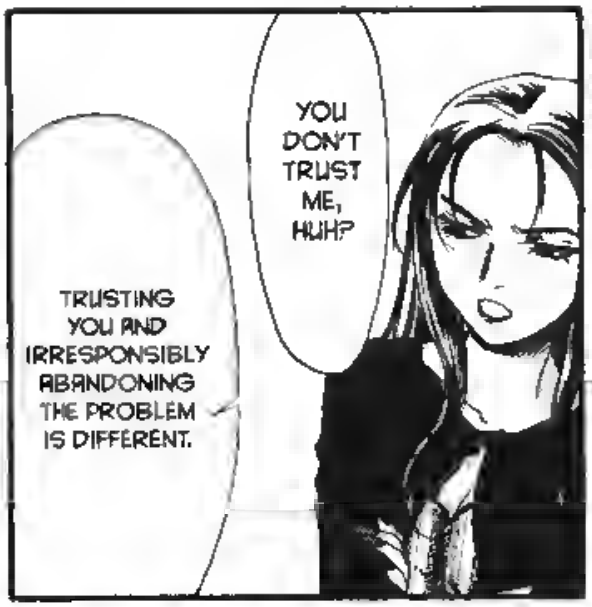
— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 8

CHIRP CHIRP
IT'S GETTING LIGHT...
I CAN'T DILLY-DALLY.
CRICK
HUH? ALREADY?
BUT YOU ONLY GOT A LITTLE SLEEP BECAUSE OF THE KEKKAI, RIGHT? WHY DON'T YOU REST SOME MORE?
I GUESS I'LL GO WORK SOME MORE.
WELL, THEN.

LET'S GO, JOHN.
SO, LIN, CAN YOU STAY HERE? I'M GOING TO RELEASE THE KEKKAI BECAUSE I NEED THE ENERGY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OKAY
TWITCH
IF WE DON'T DEAL WITH IT NOW WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT.
THEY MAY ATTACK AGAIN TONIGHT AND I DON'T THINK I COULD HANDLE THEM IN THIS CONDITION.
THE CULPRITS ARE THE THREE ROKUBU.
YOU HEARD THE SUTRAS, RIGHT?
"SANROKU MOUNDS," OF COURSE.
THEN STAY HERE.
YEAH.
THAT IS A LOT.
YEAH, PROBABLY. INCLUDING THE FIVE RINGLEADERS WHO WERE BEHEADED AND THE LEGENDARY PRINCESS AND HER LOVER.
ALL OF THE SPIRITS OF THE ONES WHO DIED HERE ARE PROBABLY FAMILIARS.
AND THOSE THREE WERE USING THE SPIRITS SUMMONED HERE AS FAMILIARS.

WHAT ?
I'LL DO IT.
AND LEAVE IT UP TO JOHN ALONE? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
BUT...
WHY DON'T WE LET MATSUZAKI-SAN DO IT?
I CAN DO IT. JUST LEAVE IT TO ME. YOU AND JOHN CAN BOTH STAY HERE AND REST.
IT WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME BEFORE NOW!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T PROVEN YOUR ABILITY.
...I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
HUH !?


YOU DON'T TRUST ME, HUH?
TRUSTING YOU AND IRRESPONSIBLY ABANDONING THE PROBLEM IS DIFFERENT.

JOHN!
BUT WE'RE STILL UNSURE OF THE SITUATION, SO CAN WE ACCOMPANY YOU?
SINCE WE'RE TIRED, WE'LL ONLY BE GOING AS OBSERVERS.

SORRY.
EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST BEING CONSIDERATE OF YOUR WELL-BEING...

I KNOW. BUT SHE SAID THAT LAST NIGHT, TOO.
WHAT'S WITH HER CONFIDENCE?
THAT THERE WERE "CIRCUMSTANCES."

HOW STUPID.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
PIT PAT
PIT PAT

CIRCUMSTANCES? LIKE WHAT?

I DUNNO...

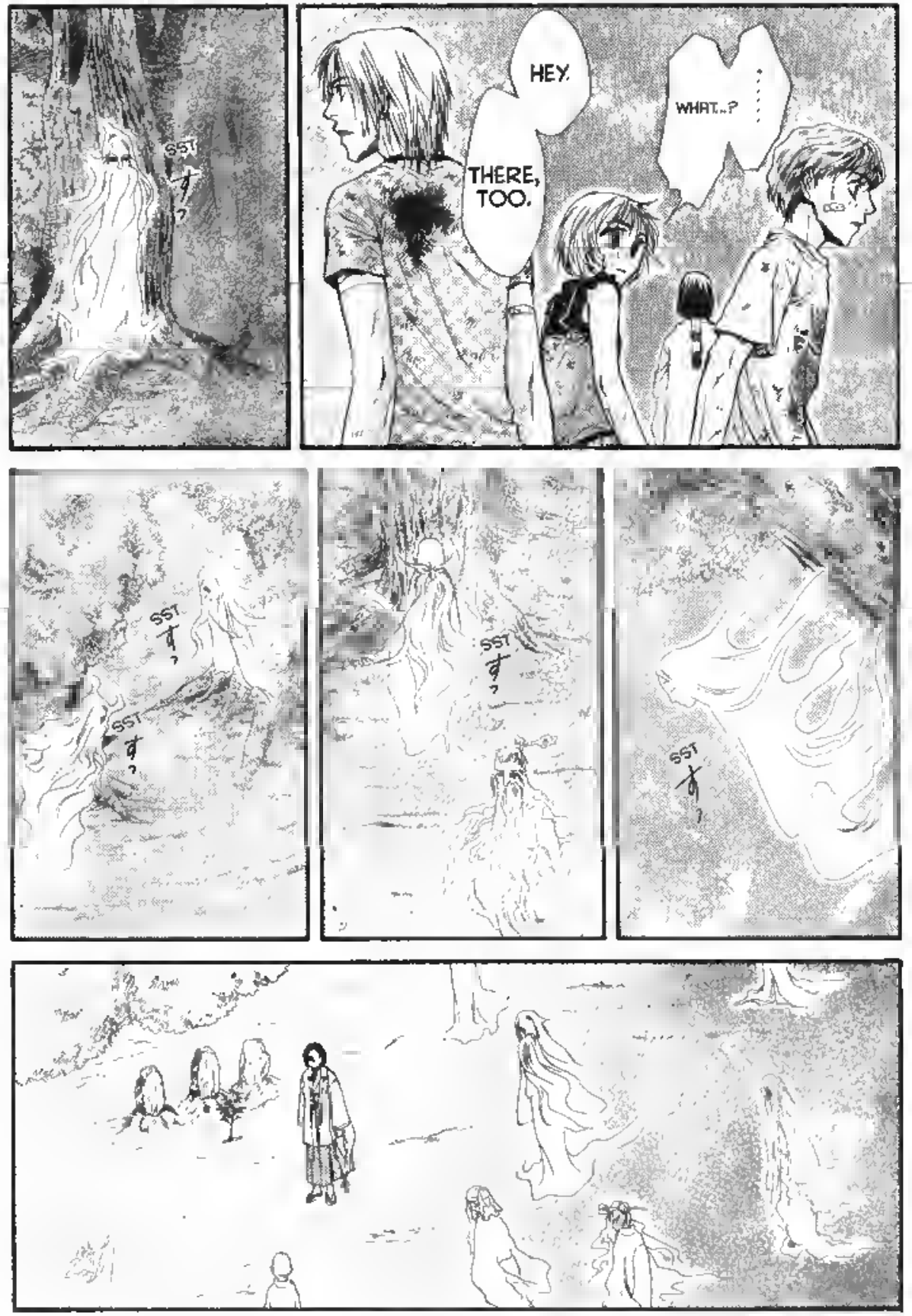
CHIRP
CHIRP
TING
TING
TING
TING
TING

AYAKO, CAN YOU REALLY DO IT?
LEAVE IT TO ME.
RIGHT HERE WILL BE THE BEST AREA.
IT'S SMALL, BUT THERE'S STILL FAITH HERE.
AND THE TREES ARE ALIVE.
TREES?
PLOP
RIGHT.
A FINE ONE, WITH A SACRED ROPE AROUND IT.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG IT USED TO TELL ME MANY THINGS.
SINCE IT TOLD ME WHEN OUR PATIENTS WERE GOING TO DIE, IT ALSO GOT ME INTO TROUBLE.
GLOP GLOP GLOP
MY CHILD-HOOD HOME HAD A BIG JAPANESE CINNAMON TREE.
I SEE.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DON'T THINK I HAVE THAT MUCH POWER.
BUT...

...I'M A MIKO.
TING チリン
HMM.
TING RING
SHE ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN DO IT
EVEN IF SHE IS RYOKO.
I WILL BEGIN.
つつしんで かんじょう たてまつる

みやしろなき このところに
こうりんちんざ したまいて
RUSTLE
すわ
RUSTLE
すわ
RUSTLE
すわ
しんぐのはらい
かずかずかずかず
たいらけく やすらけく
きこしめして ねがうところを
HOW WEIRD.
かんのうのうじゅ
なさしめたまえ——
THE AIR IS GETTING SERENE...
IT'S THE SAME PRAYER AYAKO ALWAYS DOES, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME.

RING
TOU.
THE BELL...
OH...
PYOU.
RING
RIN.
RING
SST
WOOSH
OVER THERE...


SST
す?
HEY.
THERE, TOO.
WHAT..?
SST
す?
SST
す?
SST
す?
SST
す?

VOOSH!
RING
WOBBLE
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RRRINGGG..
THEY ALL DISAPPEARED...

WOBBLE
ゆらり
SST
スッ
AYAKO.
SHH...
THERE'S STILL...
BUT THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE OVER THERE.
...THEY'RE DIFFERENT.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS SPIRITS...
THAT'S...
SLOSH
ズズズ
SLOSH
ズズズ

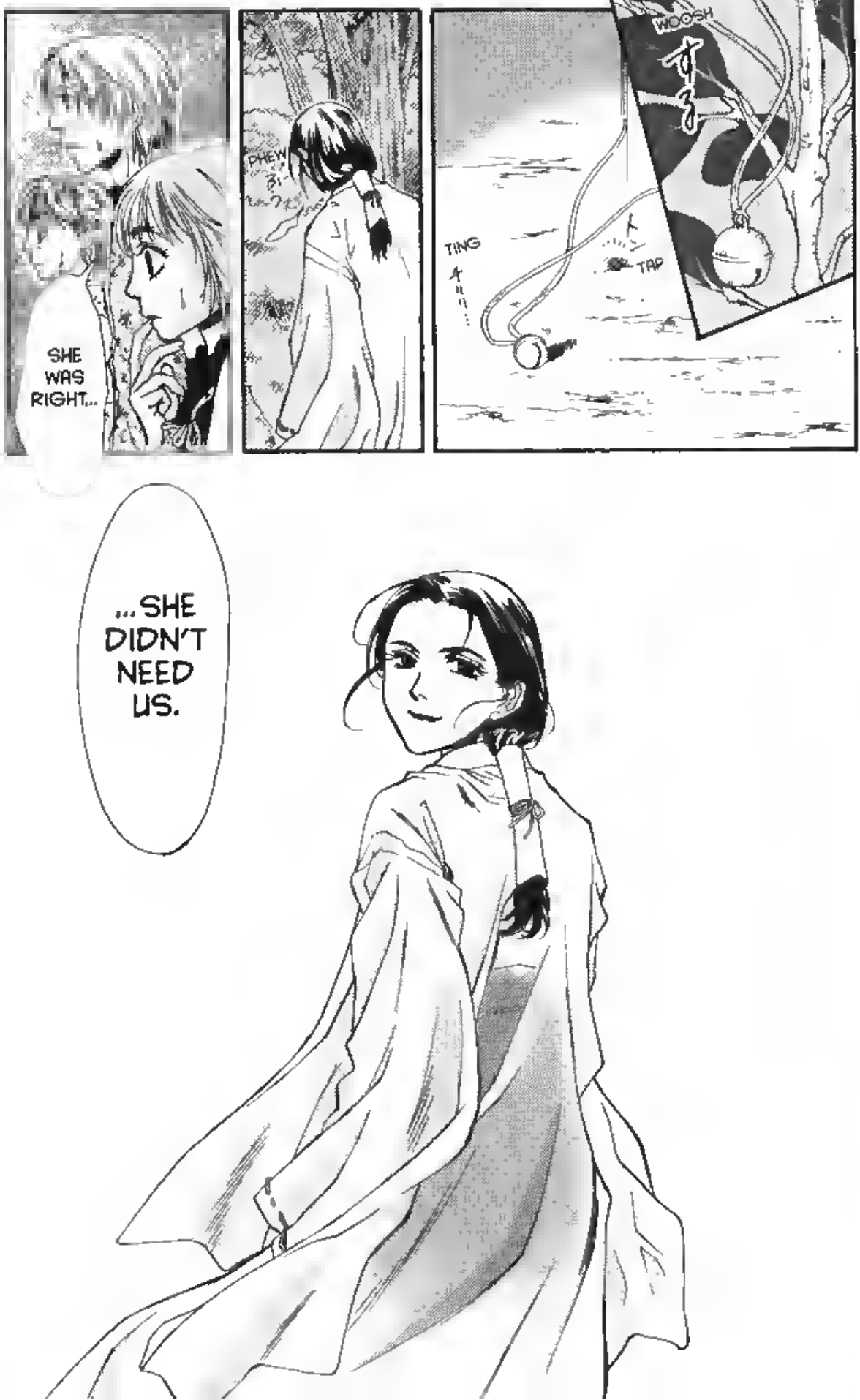
...KAZUYASU-SAN AND NAO-SAN!
PAT
SLOSH
PIT
PAT
PAT
PIT
PIT
PIT
PAT
PIT
SST
RING

VOOSH
SHRIKE
!
RRRIIINNNNGGG
NOW.
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO REST IN PEACE.

RING
RING
RING
RING
THE SPIRITS ARE DISAPPEARING WITH THE SOUND OF THE BELL...
ARE THEY ALL COMING...
...TO HAVE AYAKO HELP THEM LEAVE THIS WORLD?

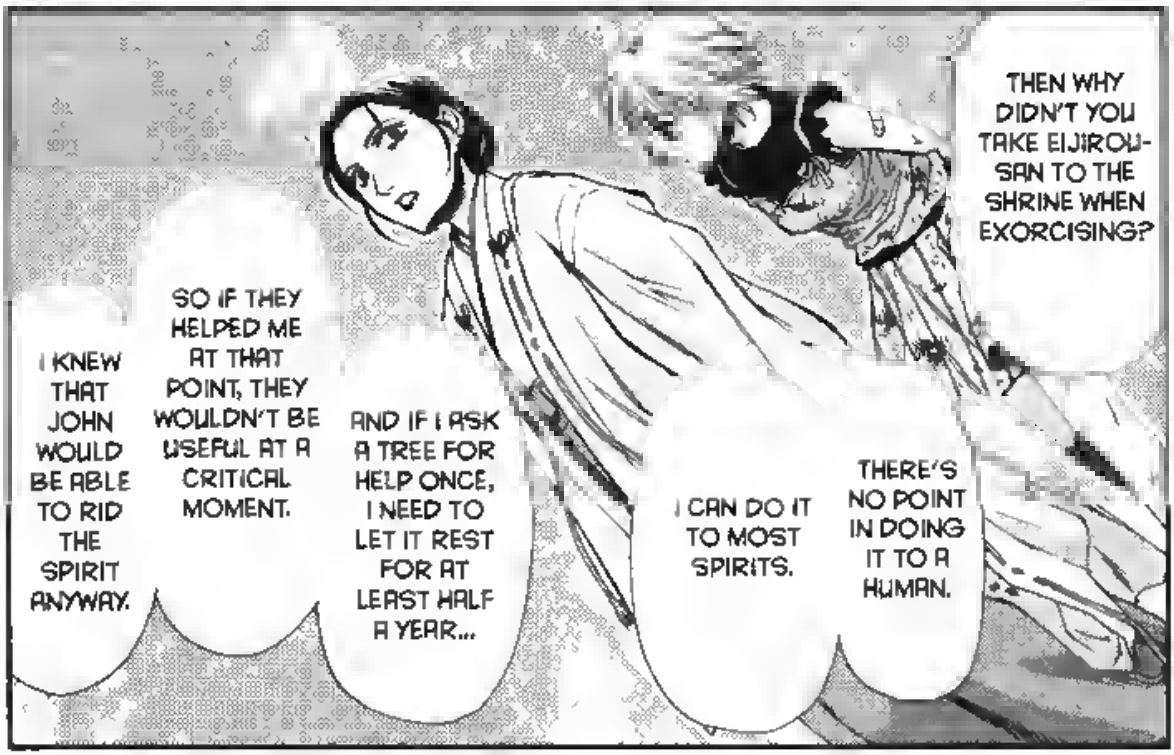
RRRIIINNNG
WHOOOO
RRIIINNNGGG
BEHIND YOU...

CRACK!
PRRRNG
SST


SHE WAS RIGHT...
PHEW
TING
TAP
WOOSH
...SHE DIDN'T NEED US.

I WASN'T HIDING IT. UNTIL NOW THERE WERE NO LIVING TREES NEARBY.
I ALWAYS SAID THE CIRCUM-STANCES JUST WEREN'T SUITABLE.
THESE TWO ARE STILL STUNNED.
SO...
YOU HAVE A LOT OF POWER. WHY HAVE YOU KEPT IT SO HIDDEN?
YOU SAW THE OLD MEN COMING OUT OF THE TREES, RIGHT?
IT HAS TO BE A PURIFIED LOCATION WITH A LIVING TREE.
ER... YEAH, I GUESS.
EVEN HAD I EXPLAINED IT, YOU'D HAVE FELT THE SAME, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST BEING A SORE LOSER.
I GET SAD WHEN I SEE THEM.
BUT SHRINES IN THE CITY ARE DEFICIENT, AND THE TREES ARE LIKE MUMMIES.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PERFORMED AT A SHRINE.
WITHOUT THEM, TREES ARE PRACTI-CALLY DEAD.
THOSE ARE TREE SPIRITS... OR SOME-THING ALONG THOSE LINES.

OR YOU CAN TAKE THE SPIRITS TO A LOCATION.
YOU SAW THE FIVE RING-LEADERS OF THE RIOT AND THE LEGENDARY PRINCESS, RIGHT?
IF IT'S NEAR, I CAN CALL THEM OVER.
..SO IT WAS GOOD THAT THE MOUNDS WERE IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHRINE, BUT WHAT IF THEY WEREN'T?

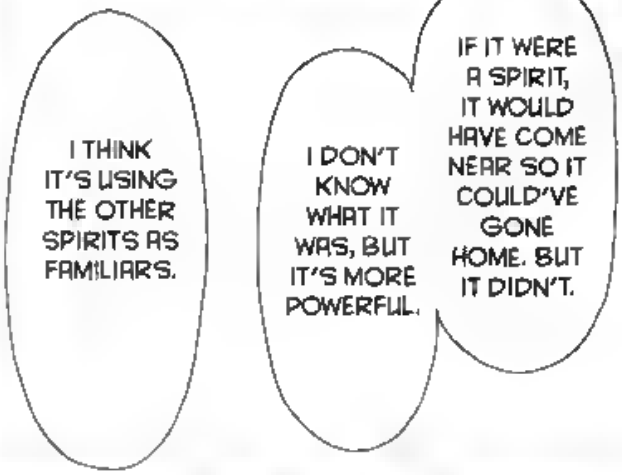

I KNEW THAT JOHN WOULD BE ABLE TO RID THE SPIRIT ANYWAY.
SO IF THEY HELPED ME AT THAT POINT, THEY WOULDN'T BE USEFUL AT A CRITICAL MOMENT.
AND IF I ASK A TREE FOR HELP ONCE, I NEED TO LET IT REST FOR AT LEAST HALF A YEAR...
I CAN DO IT TO MOST SPIRITS.
THERE'S NO POINT IN DOING IT TO A HUMAN.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE EIJIROU-SAN TO THE SHRINE WHEN EXORCISING?

NOT YET.
SO...
OUR JOB IS DONE THEN?
あっさり -BLUNTLY

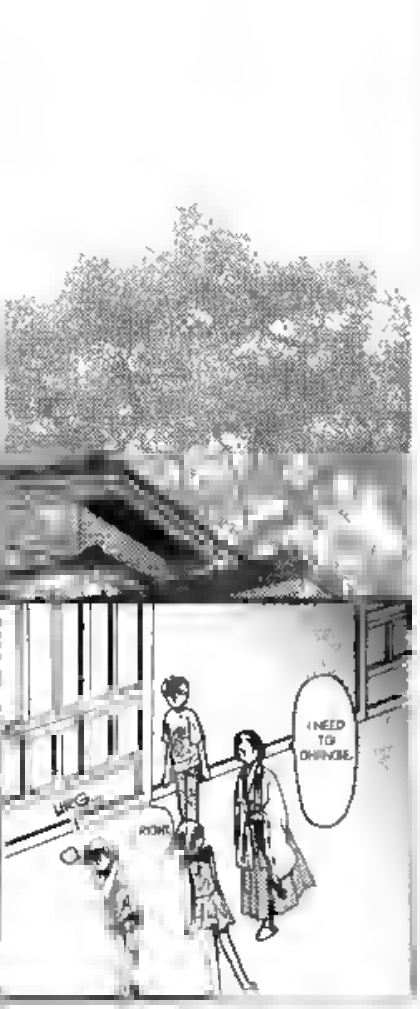
CALL ME AYAKO-SAMA FROM NOW ON!
I SEE...
WOW..
HEE HEE HEE.

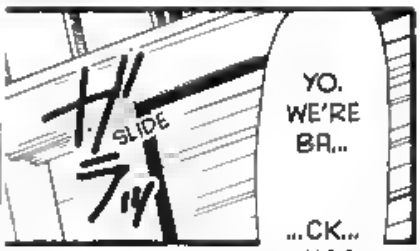
THERE WAS A POWER THAT DIDN'T COME NEAR.
...WHAT?

WHAT!?
I SAID "SPIRIT."
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE HERE THAT IS NOT JUST A SPIRIT.


I THINK IT'S USING THE OTHER SPIRITS AS FAMILIARS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT IT'S MORE POWERFUL.
IF IT WERE A SPIRIT, IT WOULD HAVE COME NEAR SO IT COULD'VE GONE HOME. BUT IT DIDN'T.

THE SPIRITS ARE GATHERING BECAUSE THERE'S A SPECIAL POWER THERE, RIGHT?
MASAKO SAID IT WAS SACRED GROUND.
I DON'T THINK SO.
I THINK THE ROKUBU THREE WERE FAMILIARS, TOO.
NOT THE SPIRITS OF THE ROKUBU?
NAO-SAN'S SPIRIT EVEN SAID IT'S A "MONSTER."


I NEED TO CHANGE.


SLIDE
YO. WE'RE BA...
...CK... WHOA.

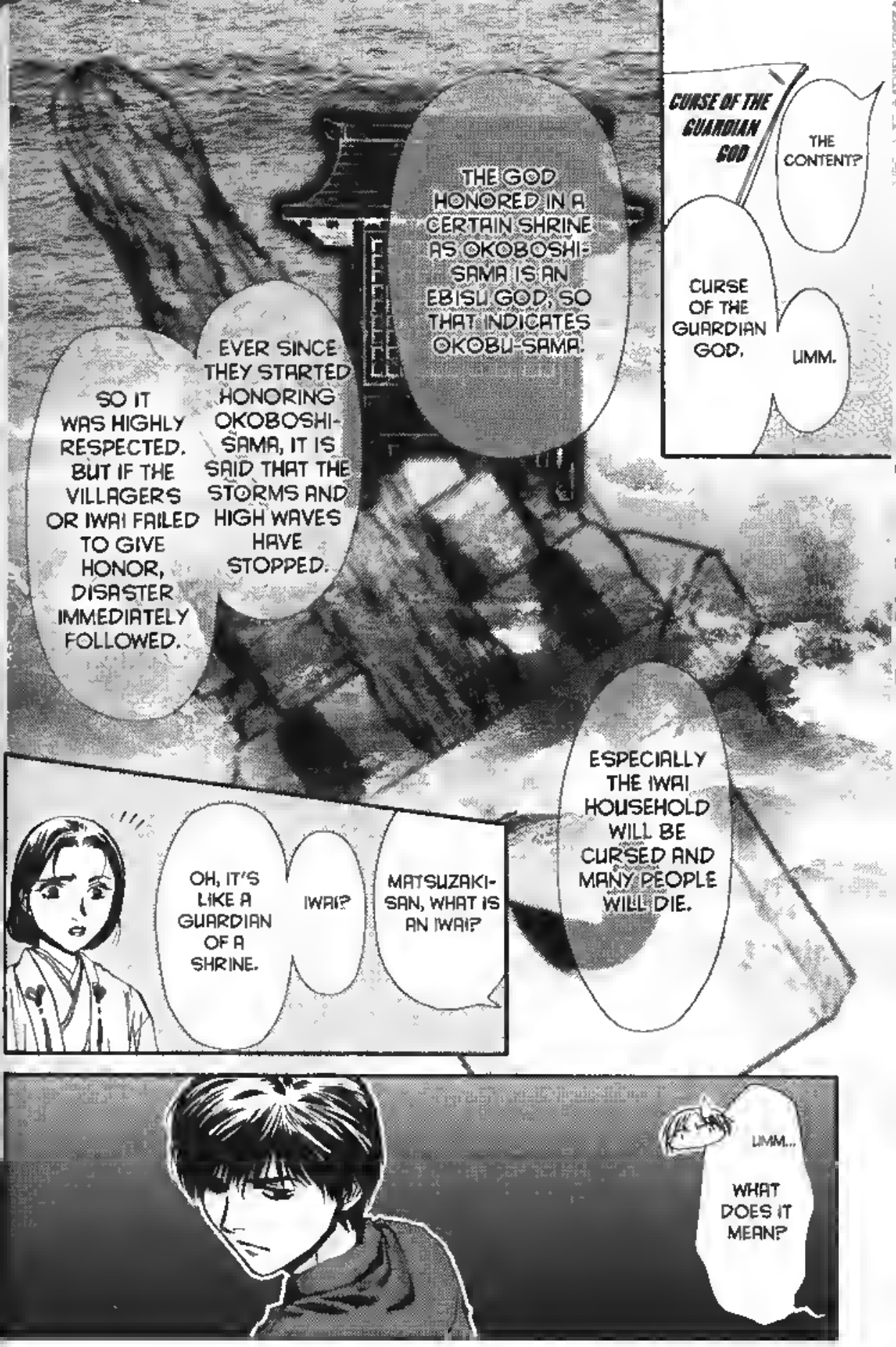
LONG TIME NO SEE.
HEY.
WHOA, IT

...OKOBU-SAMA, RIGHT?
WHICH LEAVES... ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY

A WOODEN STICK THAT WASHED ASHORE.
IT LOOKED LIKE A BUDDHA STATUE SO A HOKORA WAS BUILT AND HONORED.
I GUESS...
...WE HAVE TO GO UP AGAINST A GOD.
IT'S EBISU.
THE MAG-NIFICENT MAREBITO.

NARU!
OH...
HEY...
SNUB. BING US?
HMPH
OH, RIGHT.
HI, SHIBUYA-SAN.
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE OKAY.
THE SPIRIT POSSESSING NARU LEFT, TOO.
I WANT YOU TO BE MORE GRATE-FUL.
I FORGAVE AND FORGOT AND HELPED YOU.
WELL, THANK YOU.

HOW...
HOW SELFISH!
GLOOM
WHISPER
HE'S IN A ROTTEN MOOD.
HOW ANNOYING..
URG.
SAME NERD AS BEFORE
COME HERE.
IT'S OKOBU-SAMA
AHEM
I GUESS THE ORIGIN OF THE CURSE ISN'T THE ROKUBU SPIRITS.
UH..
LET'S SEE.
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF.
LISTEN, YOU...!
I DISCOVERED IT!
MY BRAIN IS DIFFERENT FROM YOURS.
HOW...
HOW DID YOU KNOW!?


CURSE OF THE GUARDIAN GOD
THE CONTENT?
CURSE OF THE GUARDIAN GOD.
UMM.
THE GOD HONORED IN A CERTAIN SHRINE AS OKOBOSHI-SAMA IS AN EBISU GOD, SO THAT INDICATES OKOBU-SAMA.
EVER SINCE THEY STARTED HONORING OKOBOSHI-SAMA, IT IS SAID THAT THE STORMS AND HIGH WAVES HAVE STOPPED.
SO IT WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED. BUT IF THE VILLAGERS OR IWAI FAILED TO GIVE HONOR, DISASTER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED.
ESPECIALLY THE IWAI HOUSEHOLD WILL BE CURSED AND MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE.
MATSUZAKI-SAN, WHAT IS AN IWAI?
IWAI?
OH, IT'S LIKE A GUARDIAN OF A SHRINE.
UMM...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THERE'S A SHRINE, AND BEHIND THAT, A CAVE.
THE CAVE IS WHERE CORPSES WASH ASHORE.
THERE'S A SMALL HOKORA AND HONORED THERE IS AN EBISU KNOWN AS OKOBU-SAMA.
THERE IS AN OLD STONE STAIRWAY LEADING FROM THE CAVE TO THE SHRINE, MADE BY SCRAPING AWAY THE CLIFF.
WHY GO THROUGH SUCH TROUBLESOME CONSTRUCTION? OF COURSE, THERE'S A GOOD REASON.
BECAUSE THE MAIN GOD OF THE SHRINE IS PLACED IN THE HOKORA.
SO THEY HAD TO DO IT.
THEY WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT IF IT WERE A MINOR GOD.
THE GOD IN THAT HOKORA IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE.

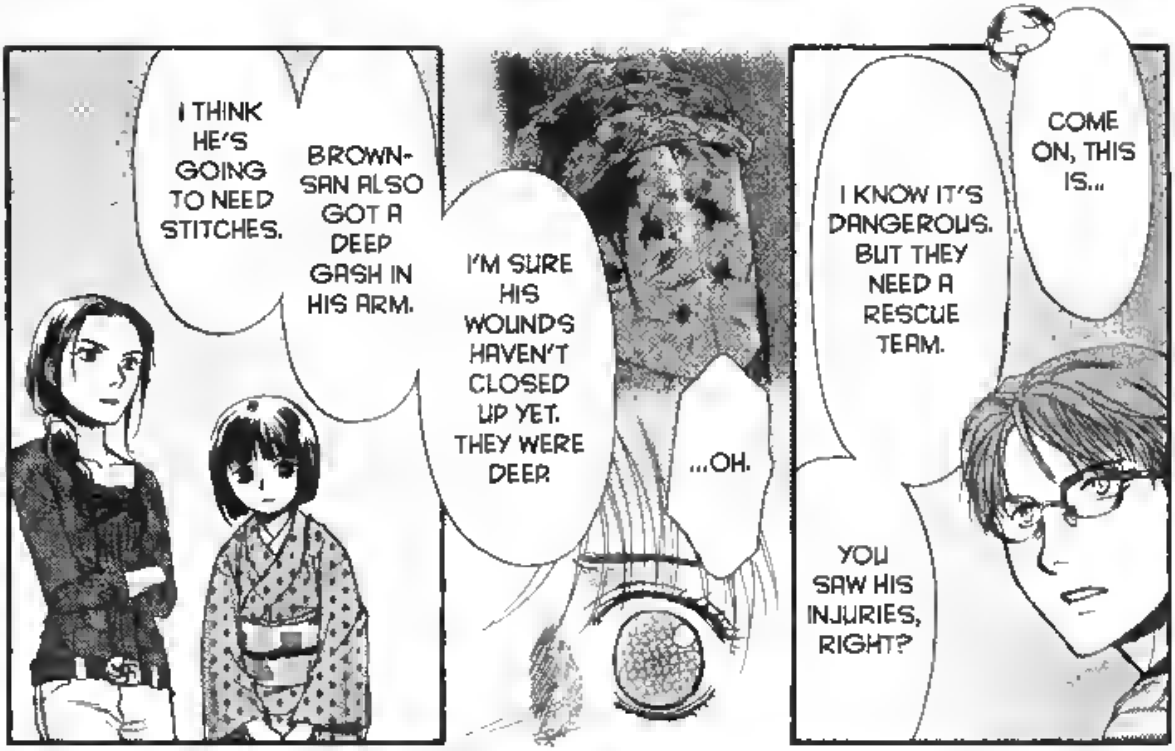
SO I HAD YASUHARA-SAN LOOK OVER THE INFORMA-TION AGAIN.
I FIGURED THERE'D BE A LEGEND REGARDING A POWERFUL GOD.
RIGHT.
...I SEE. SO THAT EXPLAINS THE LEGEND.
BUT THE SHRINE GROUNDS WERE DIVIDED AND SOLD IN LOTS.
THIS PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY A PART OF THE SHRINE.
THE SHRINE THAT HONORS OKOBU-SAMA IS DISCONNECTED FROM THE HOKORA. THIS HOUSE IS DOING THAT.
BUT IF YOU FORGET TO HONOR IT, IT TURNS INTO A HORRIBLE CURSING GOD.
OKOBU-SAMA IS AN EBISU GOD THAT OFTEN CALMED THE WATERS.
I'M GUESSING THIS AREA IS IT.
IF THERE WERE A GUARDIAN OF THE SHRINE, HE PROBABLY LIVED NEAR THE SHRINE.

IT LET SOME REMAIN SO THEY CAN BECOME GUARDIANS TO HONOR IT.
ぽか AMAZED
.....
...NARU IS REALLY AMAZING.
HE COMPREHENDED THE SITUATION SO EASILY...
...I'M GOING TO EXORCISE THE OKOBU-SAMA.
THAT LEGEND PROVES IT. BUT THE WHOLE FAMILY HASN'T BEEN KILLED YET.
BUT THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE HONORING IT...ARE NOT. SO IT CURSED THEM.
OKOBU-SAMA BELIEVES THAT THE ONES WHO LIVE HERE ARE THE GUARDIANS WHO SHOULD HONOR IT.
IN ADDITION, THIS AREA WAS EVENTUALLY SOLD AS A PRIVATE RESIDENCE.
THAT'S THE BEST GUESS.
BUT THE AREA WHERE THE GUARDIAN WAS LIVING WAS ALSO SPLIT UP WHEN THE RIOT RINGLEADERS' GRAVES WERE BUILT.

IT WAS YOU WHO SAID THAT THERE'S NO WAY TO GET RID OF A MONSTER, REMEMBER?
YUP.
YUP.
YUP.
EVEN IF THE OPPONENT IS EBISU, IT'S A TYPE OF GOD. IT'S WORSE THAN DEALING WITH A MONSTER.
BUT IT'LL BE FINE FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
IF THEY FORGET TO, IT'LL CURSE AGAIN.
DO WE NEED TO? CAN'T THEY JUST HONOR HIM?
FLINCH
びくっ
HE LOOKS SCARY!
OR DID YOU WANT TO RETREAT?
IT GAVE US SUCH A FUN EXPERIENCE...
I THINK NOT.
SO LET IT GO?
WELL I CAN'T DO IT!
IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT WE SHOULD RECIPROCATE.
ME NEITHER... I CAN ONLY DEAL WITH SPIRIT POSSESSION IF IT'S A GOD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THERE'S NO TREE THERE THAT CAN HELP ME.
COMPLETELY BONKERS.
HE'S GONE MAD.
SHIVER

I DON'T NEED ANYONE WHO IS INCOMPETENT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
OH, HE'S MANIPULATING THEM INTO IT!
BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD LISTEN TO LIN AND NOT DO IT...
I COULD TRY..
MONK-SAN?
LIN?
I DON'T THINK WE CAN DO IT.
NARU, I SUGGEST KEEPING OUR HANDS CLEAR OF THIS ONE.
IT'S HOT.
DANG IT.
I'M GOING, TOO!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
OKAY
YOU GUYS STAY HERE.
WE END UP GOING, EH?
...SO.

DON'T WORRY, IF IT GETS TOO DANGEROUS, I CAN RUN AWAY FASTER THAN ANYONE.
I'M GOING, TOO.
HUH?
EACH PERSON WILL LOOK OUT FOR THEM-SELVES.
I DON'T THINK I CAN PROTECT YOU.
YOU'LL BE IN THE WAY.
BUT...
URG... YOU KEEP TALKING BACK.
HEE HEE
BUT MY GOOD LUCK IS ALREADY PROVEN FROM THE RYOKURYOU CASE.
WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
HUH?
I DON'T THINK IT'S A GAME.
HEY! WE'RE NOT PLAYING A GAME HERE!
GO
HUH?
I THINK ALL OF US SHOULD GO.
SO ANY-WAY.
WOW...
..FINE, THEN! DO WHAT YOU WANT!
STOMP STOMP


COME ON, THIS IS...
I KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS. BUT THEY NEED A RESCUE TEAM.
YOU SAW HIS INJURIES, RIGHT?
...OH.
I'M SURE HIS WOUNDS HAVEN'T CLOSED UP YET. THEY WERE DEER
I THINK HE'S GOING TO NEED STITCHES.
BROWN-SAN ALSO GOT A DEEP GASH IN HIS ARM.

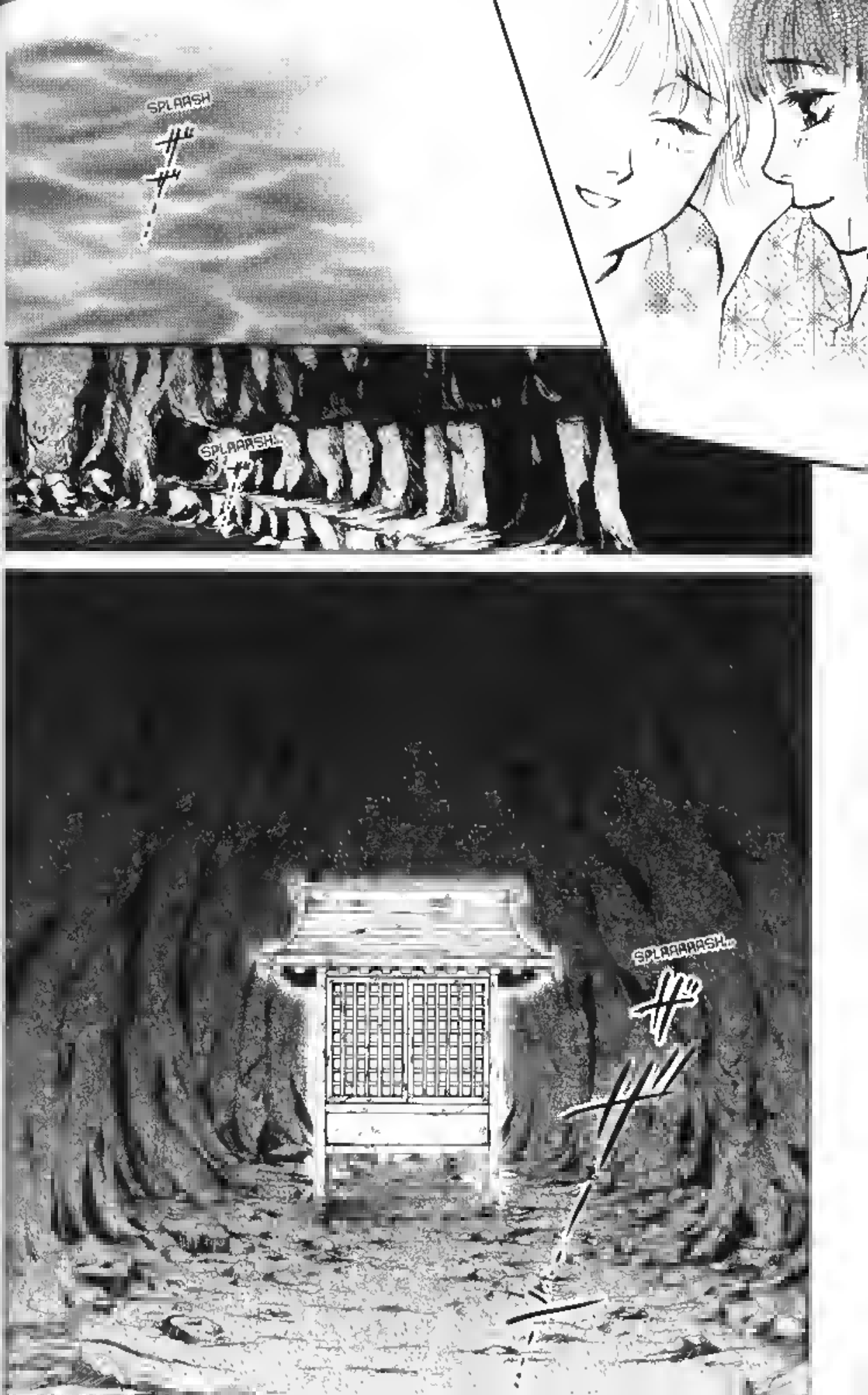
...OKAY.
...GEEZ.
MEN ARE SO STUPID!

IF IT WERE A SHRINE WHERE AN AMBULANCE COULD COME UP TO IT, IT'D BE FINE. BUT IN A CAVE, SHIBUYA-SAN AND LIN-SAN WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING THEM BACK.
IF WE'RE NOT GOING, WE'RE NOT LETTING THOSE TWO GO...WE NEED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.

I GUESS WE SHALL GO THEN.
...MAI?
YES?!
MAY I BORROW SOME CLOTHING? I CAN'T GO LIKE THIS.

...IS IT THAT ODD FOR ME TO WEAR WESTERN CLOTHES?
WELL...
THERE'S THAT, TOO.
GRINNING
BEAMING
HEH HEH
ARE THESE OKAY?
YES. THANK YOU.
MAI!
OH!
SEE, YOU CALLED ME BY MY NAME AGAIN.
!
WHAT ELSE THEN?
UMMM...
I LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME.
IT MAKES YOU FEEL CLOSER, RIGHT?
...I WONDER...
YEAH.
HMPH
...AND?
SO YOU CAN KEEP DOING IT. ♡
YOU DO THE SAME TO ME.

I LIKE THE CHANGE OF SENTIMENT.
I'M NOT BEING FRIENDLY.
.....
YOU ALWAYS CALLED ME BY MY LAST NAME.
BUT NOW YOU SOME-TIMES CALL ME BY MY FIRST.
WE BOTH CHOSE SOMEONE DIFFICULT...
SIGH ふぅ
OH.
SAME SICK-NESS?
IT'S JUST PITY BECAUSE WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME SICK-NESS.
YEAH...
THEY SAY LOVE IS CHEMICAL.
ONCE AGAIN
AND IT'D BE EASIER, TOO.
...BUT I GUESS THAT'S SOME-THING WE CAN'T CONTROL.
SIGHHH
AS FAR AS PERSONALITY GOES, TAKIGAWA-SAN OR ANY-ONE WOULD BE MUCH BETTER.
WHEN I FIRST SAW NARU AFTER HE WOKE UP, I FELT SORRY FOR MYSELF. "WHY DO I LIKE HIM?"
...THAT'S TRUE.
GLOOOOOM


SPLAASH
SPLAAASH...
SPLAAAAASH...

GHOST HUNT

— THE CURSED HOUSE —

FILE 9

WHAT!?
BUT IF IT CAN CALM STORMS AND HIGH WAVES, IT MIGHT BE NOTHING TO CALL THE SPIRITS BACK AGAIN.
HEY, AYAKO.
HM?
THEY SHOULD BE...
ALL THE FAMILIAR SPIRITS ARE GONE, RIGHT?
EVEN IF THE ATMO-SPHERE IS LIKE A SACRED GROUND.
THEY'RE NOT HERE NOW.
...NO NEED TO WORRY.
YOU NEVER KNOW. IT'S A GOD.
IT IS A VERY EMPTY SACRED GROUND...
WOW

GULP
PHEW
LET'S BEGIN.

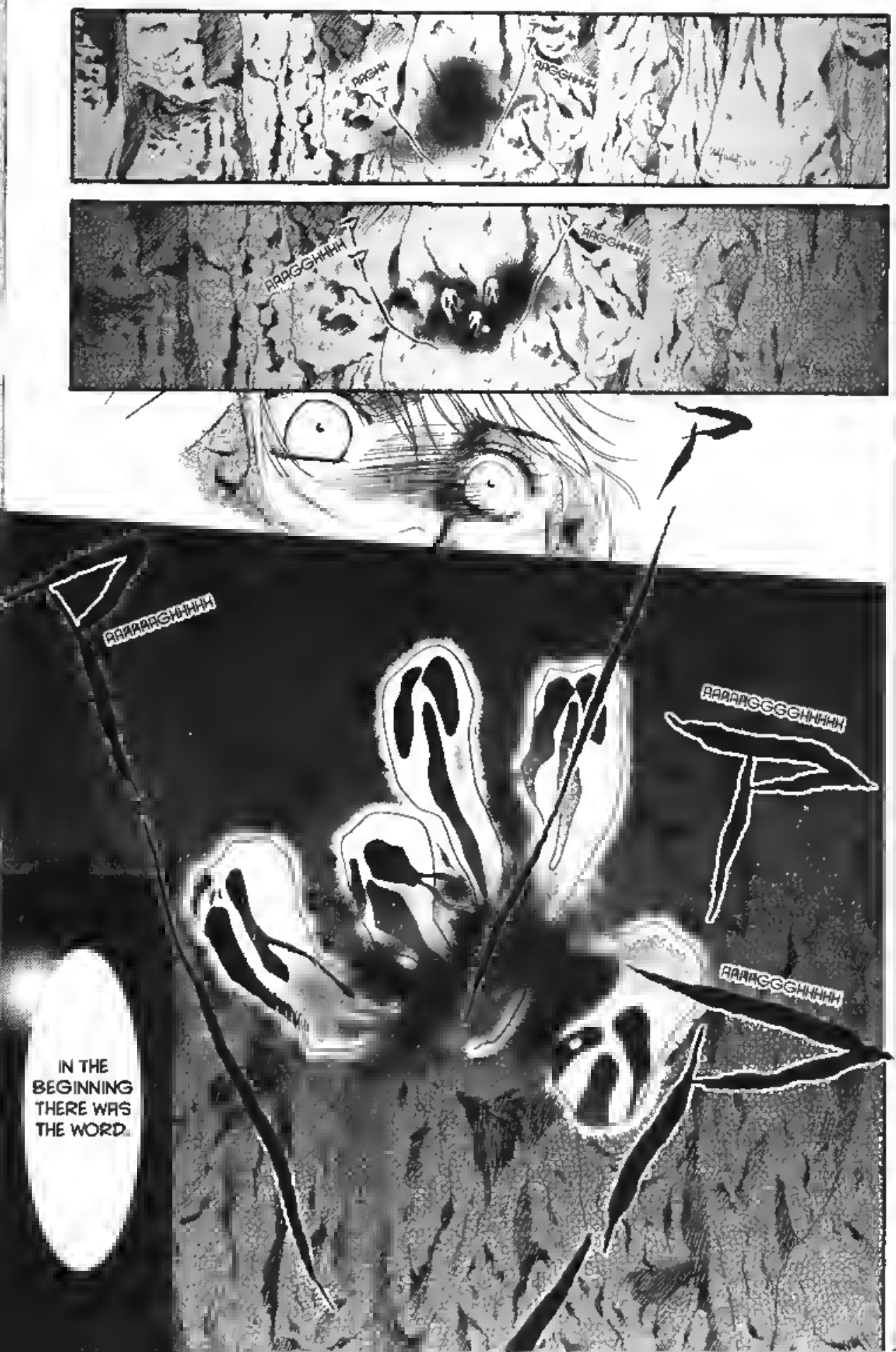
ON DATA GATO NAU BEBA YA SOWAKA.
SABA SABA KITSU DOKAN.
ON HABA HABA KIUTA SABA TRAUMA.
BA-DUM
WAS IT MY IMAGINATION...?
ON BAZAAR GINI HARA CHIHA TAYA SOWAKA.
ON BATA MARI NAU HABA YA SOWAKA.
I HEARD... SOMETHING.
BA-DUM

BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
...DO YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
YOU TOO?
WHAT IS IT?
BA-DUM!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
AGH!
...BEAT-ING OF THE HEART?
BA-DUM
THIS...
...COULD IT BE...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
MAI.
DON'T.
...THAT THE CAVE IS PULSATING?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
THE WALL...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

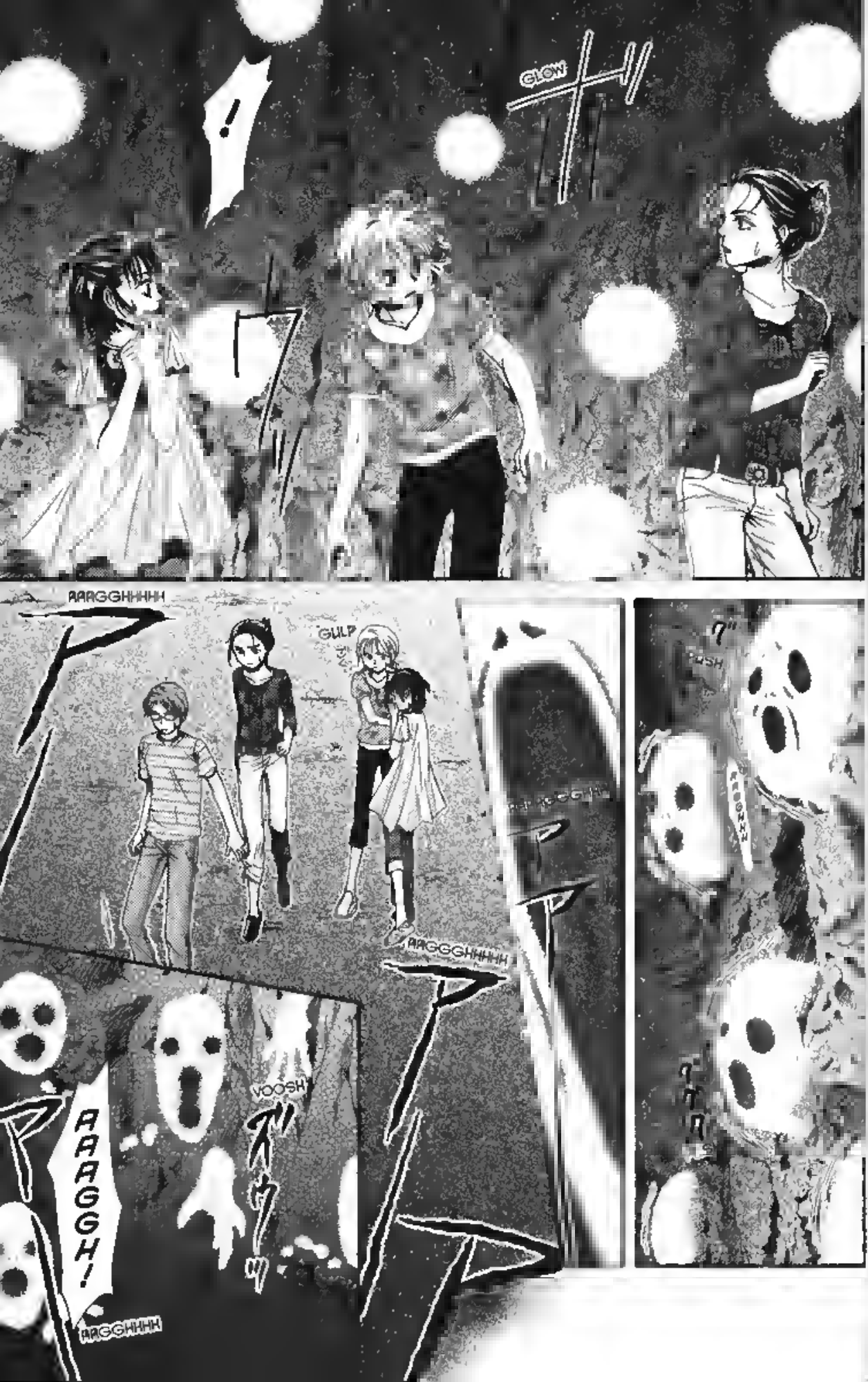
IT FEELS LIKE ROCK...
WOOSH
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
...BUT IT'S WARM LIKE A HUMAN'S
BA-DUM
WHOOO...
WHOOOO...
TAKIGAWA-SAN!
IT'S AS IF THE CAVE IS ALIVE!
WHAT? NOW IT'S LIKE IT'S BREATHING?
RRROOOOARRRR
WHOOOOOO...
ROOOARR
THE ENTRANCE IS SEALING OVER!
ROOOARRR
RROOOARRR
FLINCH

NARU..
ARGGHH
WHAT THE/?
DON'T BOTHER WITH IT.
DAMN...
IF WE GET THE MAIN CAUSE, IT'LL OPEN.
SHUUUU WHOOOO WHOOO
BA-DUM
ARGGH
ARGGH!
BA-DUM
ARRGHHH
BA-DUM
WHOOO
コオオ
BA-DUM
SHUUUU WHOOOO WHOOO
ARRGHHH
BA-DUM

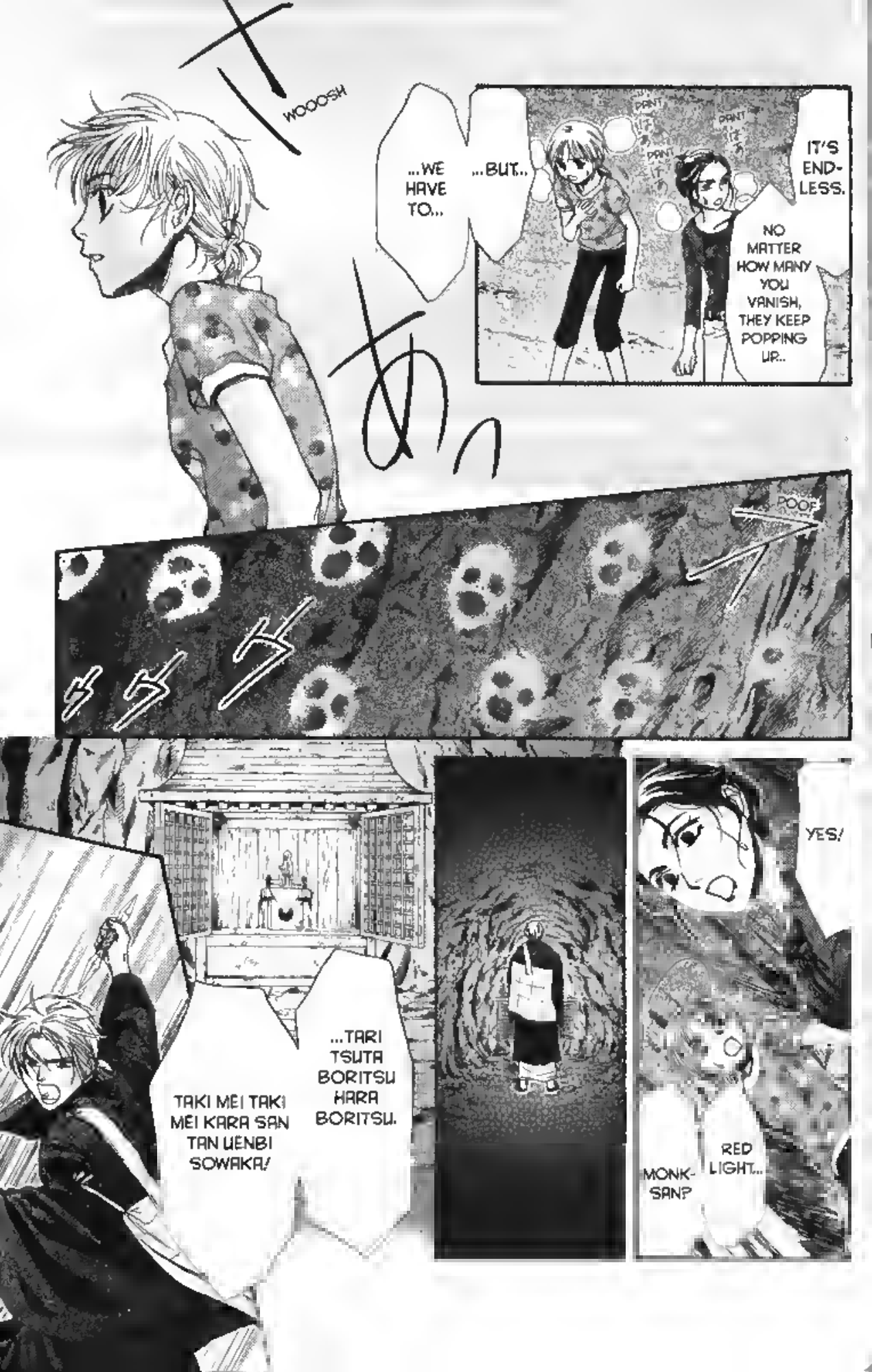
FROM BEHIND ME..
RRRGGHHH
RRRGGHHH
...THIS VOICE,
IS IT
WHOOO
RRRGGHHH
RRRGGHHH
PLEASE MAKE IT STOP!
STOP IT...
RRRGGHHH
RRRGGHHH


ARGH
ARGGHHH
ARAGGHHHH
ARAGGHHHH
AAAAARGHHHH
AAAAAGGGHHHHH
AAAAGGGHHHHH
IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS THE WORD.

AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD.
THE WORD WAS GOD.
GASP
THE WORD WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING.
AAAGGHHH
AAAGGGHHH
THROUGH THE WORD EVERY-THING WAS CREATED.
AAAGGHH
WITHOUT THE WORD, NOTHING WOULD EXIST...
AAAGGHHH
JAKU UN BAN KOKU...
ON BASARA KIRI RAUN
MONK-SAN, PRAYERS.
...YEAH.
SMILE


!
GLOW
AAAGGHHHHH
GULP
AAAGGHHHHH
VOOSH
AAAGH!
AAGGHHHH
PUSH
AAGHHH

WHEEEE
THUNK
POOF
MAI!
UH... YEAH!
RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN RETSU ZAI ZEN!
GLOW
GLOW
POOF


WOOOSH
...WE HAVE TO...
...BUT..
PANT
PANT
PANT
IT'S END-LESS.
NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU VANISH, THEY KEEP POPPING UP...
POOF
TAKI MEI TAKI MEI KARA SAN TAN UENBI SOWAKA!
...TARI TSUTA BORITSU HARA BORITSU.
YES!
MONK-SAN?
RED LIGHT...

WOOOSH
THUNK
THUD
MONK-SAN!
USE IT TO BREAK THE WOOD.
GRAB THAT TOKKO-SHO...
...JOHN.

RIGHT!
DASH
DUDE !?
JOHN!
SLIDE
YA... YASUHARA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
OH, MY GLASSES
OW.
YEAH, FOR THE TIME BEING...
I'M STILL ALIVE, ANYWAY.
HA HA
THUD
IS THAT ALL?

MRL
MRL
EVERYONE'S BEEN PUSHED TO THEIR LIMITS HELPING YOU!
I'VE HAD IT! WHY ARE YOU SO BUILT UP WITH THIS!?
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY!
YOU'RE PROTECTED BY OTHERS, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH PRIDE YOU CAN HAVE!!
IF IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO IT YOURSELF !?
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS JUST FOR YOUR PRIDE? ARE YOU INSANE?

LET'S GO HOME
OW...
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH
SORRY, NARU-CHAN. IT'S THE END OF THE ROAD.
YEAH...
LOGICAL ARGUMENT.
IT SURE IS!
HMPH
I SAID IT!
HEAVE
HEAVE
NARU.
LET'S GO.
I'M SORRY.
YOU CAN'T CLIMB THE STAIRS, RIGHT?
LET'S RETURN FROM THE OCEAN SIDE.
SIGH
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NARU
!?
HEY...
SST
NARU?

HEY, WAIT.
NARU!
KLUNK!
OH...
HA HA HA...
WHOA!?
NARU!?
DON'T!
THERE'S NO WIND...
!
ZNINNG
FLOAT
HUH?
WHAT? SUDDENLY...
NARU...
...MY EARS ARE RINGING.
...IS THAT?
WHAT...
SPARK

THE AIR SURROUNDING NARU IS DENSE...
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A MEMBRANE AROUND HIM.
AND MY EARS ARE RINGING LOUDER. I CAN BARELY HEAR...
ZIIIING
NARU IS DOING THIS, TOO?
WOW...THE SCENERY LOOKS WARPED.
RRRIII

CREAK
CREEEEEEEEEEEEEE

AGH...
WOOSH

SPLARRSH
SPLARRSH
GASP
WHAT JUST...
SPLARRSH
SPLARRSH

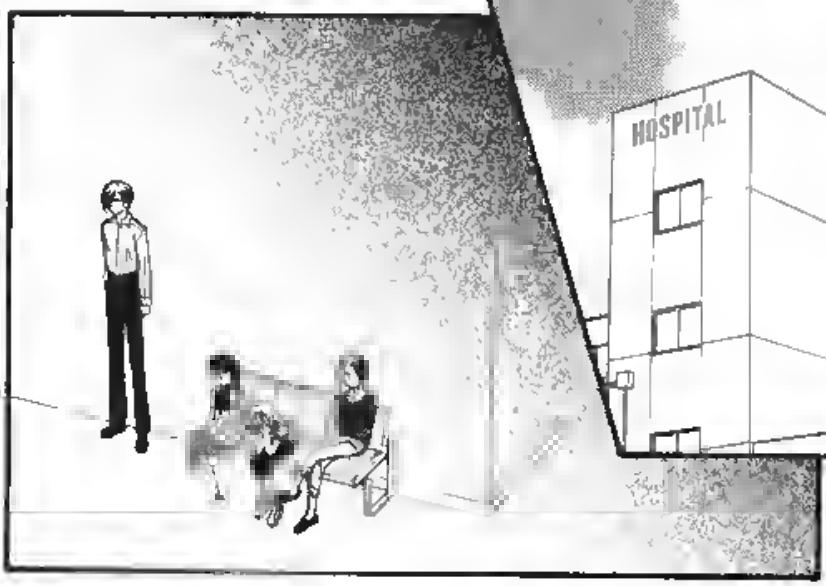
THE ATMO-SPHERE...
...IT'S CLEAR.
THIS IS NOT A SACRED GROUND ANY-MORE.
SPIRITS WILL NOT BE SUMMONED.
THIS AREA IS NOW JUST AN ORDINARY CAVE.
SIGH
RIGHT NOW...
...I'M THINKING IF YOU WERE ABLE TO DO IT YOURSELF, I WISH YOU'D HAVE DONE IT EARLIER.

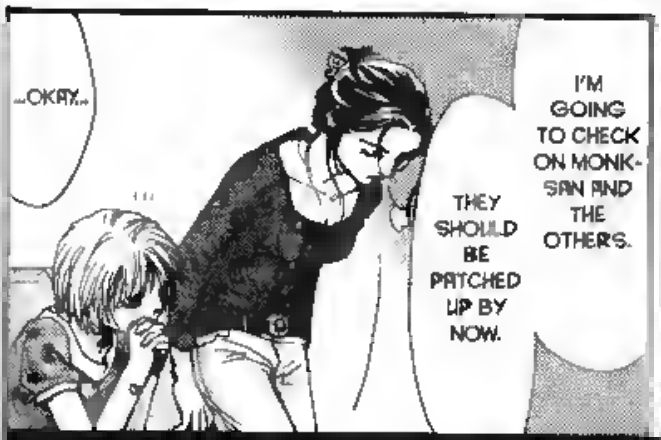
LET'S GO.
ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU WALK?
WHY DON'T YOU REST IN THE SHADE A WHILE...
I'LL GET YOU SOME WATER.
...NARU !?

NA...
NARU!
GASP
DAMN IT...
IS HE ALL RIGHT !?
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
LIN-SAN?

PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
HEY... LIN-SAN!?
WHIP
NARU!
COME ON, BREATHE!
I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
...HUH?

ICU
Intensive Care Unit
ICU


HOSPITAL


...OKAY...
THEY SHOULD BE PATCHED UP BY NOW.
I'M GOING TO CHECK ON MONK-SAN AND THE OTHERS.

AND THEY WERE MASSAGING HIS HEART.
...THAT MEANS HE'D STOPPED BREATHING, RIGHT?
HE ALMOST DIED?
WHY...
"NARU! COME ON, BREATHE!"
SIGH

I NEED TO TALK TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE.
THAT WOULD BE ME.
...BUT IF NARU DIES...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I DON'T THINK IT'LL HAPPEN...
THERE IS A CHANCE HE'LL FALL BACK INTO A DEEPER STATE. HE'LL NEED TO BE HOSPITALIZED SO WE CAN MONITOR HIS PROGRESS.
ALTHOUGH HE DOES SEEM TO BE RECOVERING...
HIS PULSE IS WEAK AND SOMETIMES IRREGULAR.
HE'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
HOSPITALIZED...

LIN-SAN...
IS SOME-THING WRONG WITH NARU?
...NO, IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAS A CHRONIC DISEASE.
THEN...
...HE USED QIGONG. IS THAT THE REASON?
THIS HAPPENED BEFORE. YOU SAID HE JUST FAINTED, BUT THAT WASN'T THE REAL REASON, WAS IT?
YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, SO YOU TRIED TO STOP HIM?
...YES.
IS QIGONG THAT DANGEROUS? I THOUGHT IT COULD CURE ILLNESSES.
WHY DOES NARU FALL WHEN HE USES IT!?
URRGG...
TANIYAMA-SAN.
PLEASE CALM DOWN.
...EVERY-ONE RELEASES CHI.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL ATMO-SPHERE.
USUALLY IT IS JUST RELEASED AND YOU DON'T USE IT FOR ANY-THING.
QIGONG IS INCREASING THAT CHI AND CONTROLLING IT FOR A CERTAIN PURPOSE.
JUST LIKE SPORTS, YOU CAN USE IT IF YOU TRAIN.
BUT IN NARU'S CASE, IT'S FAR SUPERIOR TO THAT.

SUPERIOR ...?
IT'S A GIFT FROM HEAVEN.
NARU USED TO CAUSE POLTERGEISTS WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.
AS A MEANS FOR HIM TO CONTROL HIS CHi, I TAUGHT HIM QIGONG.
SO IT IS SIMILAR TO NORMAL QIGONG.
BUT HIS LEVEL OF CHI IS SO MUCH HIGHER.
REALLY ?
YES.
NARU'S POWERS ARE TOO INTENSE....
...FOR A HUMAN TO HANDLE. THAT IS WHY HIS BODY CAN'T KEEP UP.
...IT'S MY FAULT.

WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE'LL BE IN A BAD MOOD FOR A WHILE.
BUT I SUPPOSE HE WAS REALLY UPSET WITH HIMSELF. HE HAS TOO MUCH PRIDE.
IF HE WERE MORE COOL-HEADED, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO PRO-VOKED.
NARU KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IF HE USED IT.
IT'S BECAUSE I PROVOKED HIM...
IT WAS HIS FAULT.
BUT...
IF HE HADN'T SUCCEEDED IN THE EXORCISM, HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DIED FROM INDIGNATION.
HE WAS UPSET AND DID WHAT HE NORMALLY WOULDN'T DO...SO HE BLUNDERED TWICE.
...I SEE.
OF COURSE.
...PROBABLY.
HE'LL BE OKAY THEN?
GIGGLE

AFTER LOOKING IT OVER...
...THE STORE WAS IN COMPLETE SHAMBLES.
AND THEN...
...SO WE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.
NARU... AND YASUHARA-SAN, TOO, WERE HOSPITALIZED (HIS RIBS WERE BROKEN)...
SINCE WE CAN'T OPEN FOR BUSINESS, PLEASE STAY FOR A WHILE.
...THEY HAD FUNERALS.
THEY MADE IT SO THAT KAZUYASU-SAN COMMITTED SUICIDE, AND NAO-SAN DIED OF AN ACCIDENT.
...WHY DID IT HAVE TO END LIKE THIS?
THEY WERE ALL GOOD PEOPLE.
THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...

311
SHIBUYA
HOSPITAL
GEE...
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU WERE RELEASED FASTER THAN EXPECTED!
THANK YOU.
NOW IT'S SHIBUYA-SAN'S TURN.
YOU GUYS SHOULD SIT.
HERE'S A CHAIR
AND JUST AS LIN-SAN PREDICTED...
...HE'S BEEN IN A BAD MOOD...
OH, THANK YOU.
SORRY
.....
I'LL HELP
GEE WHIZ
I'LL GO BUY SOME DRINKS.
IS TEA OKAY?
YEAH.
THANKS.

I HEARD NARU APOLO-GIZED.
BUT...
HUH?
OH.
YEAH...
THEY SHOULD BE A LITTLE UPSET.
TAKIGAWA-SAN AND BROWN-SAN, TOO. NARU CAUSED THEM SO MUCH TROUBLE.
YASUHARA-SAN IS TOO NICE.
MASAKO?
URG
THUMP
IT WAS THE FIRST THING HE DID AFTER HE WOKE UP.
YEAH. MONK-SAN TOLD ME YESTER-DAY.
...REALLY?
YOU CAN GIVE UP.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
HEE HEE
...BUT WE CANNOT GIVE UP.
EXACTLY! IT'S RIDICULOUS TO LIKE HIM, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO HATE HIM!
GRR!
IF HE HADN'T APOLOGIZED THEN HE'D STILL BE A JERK AND THINGS WOULD BE MUCH SIMPLER.
...THAT'S WHAT I HATE ABOUT NARU.
YUP YUP
I WISH HE'D MAKE IT CLEAR. IS HE NICE OR IS HE A JERK?

I CERTAINLY WILL NOT
HMPH
THEN I CAN'T AGREE TO A PACT LIKE THAT.
IN LOVE, YOU HAVE TO BE CUNNING.
...MAI, DON'T BE CUNNING.
WILL YOU TELL ME NARU'S WEAKNESS?
GO AHEAD, THEN.
WHILE YOU PLAY DIRTY, I'LL BE A GOOD GIRL.
YOU CAN EVEN RIDICULE ME.
"DO YOU THINK THE PRINCE WILL CHOOSE CINDERELLA?"
OF COURSE.
HAVE YOU REALLY CONSIDERED THE PRINCE'S PERSONALITY/?
HIM.
THAT IS TRUE.
RIGHT?
HA HA HA...

— CONTINUED IN VOL. 10 —

I AM SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT SO LONG SINCE THE LAST VOLUME!! FOR THOSE WHO WAITED, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I HOPE YOU LIKED IT.

SPECIAL THANKS
F. ONO

EDITOR
K. KAWAMOTO

RESEARCH HELP
ASADOYA-SAMA
http://www.asadaya.co.jp/

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

AND
VERY MANY THANKS TO
YOU♥

About the Creators of Ghost Hunt

ABOUT THE CREATOR

•

Shiho Inada

Born on October 17 in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Sign: Libra.

Blood type: B.

She made her debut with *Camouflage* in 1994.

Her best-known work is *Ghost Hunt*.

ABOUT THE WRITER

•

Fuyumi Ono

Born in Oita Prefecture.

She made her debut with *Teen's Heart*,
published on Kodansha X Library.

Her most popular works are the *Evil Spirit* series and the *Twelve Kingdom* series.

Her works are widely read, and although her novels are considered young adult fiction, her works are read by people from all walks of life.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, end translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here ere notes on some of the places where we could have gone in e different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

PAGE 15, SHICHIBAKU

The full term is "fudou shichi baku," and it is a type of instant hypnosis that makes a person immobile.

PAGE 44, HOKORA

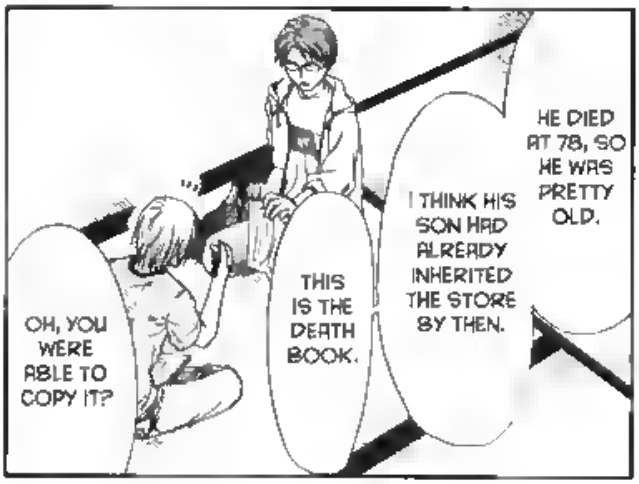
A hokora is similar to a shrine where respects are paid to a god, but it's much smaller.

PAGE 52, ANSEI ERA AND PURGE

The Ansei Era is the period between 1854 and 1860. The emperor of this period was Emperor Koumei, and the Shogun was Iesada Tokugawa, followed by Iemochi Tokugawa. The Ansei Purge happened in 1858 and 1859, in which more than a hundred people from the Japanese feudal government, clans, and the imperial court were either executed or imprisoned.

PAGE 64, *KAMAITACHI*

Kamaitachi is e phenomenon in which cuts, as if from a sickle, appear suddenly and mysteriously on the body. *Kama* means "sickle," and *itachi* is the name for the Japanese mink or ferret. In the old days, *kamaitachi* was known to be used by a kind of monster that resembled e ferret.


OH, YOU WERE ABLE TO COPY IT?
THIS IS THE DEATH BOOK.
I THINK HIS SON HAD ALREADY INHERITED THE STORE BY THEN.
HE DIED AT 78, SO HE WAS PRETTY OLD.

PAGE 72, DEATH BOOK

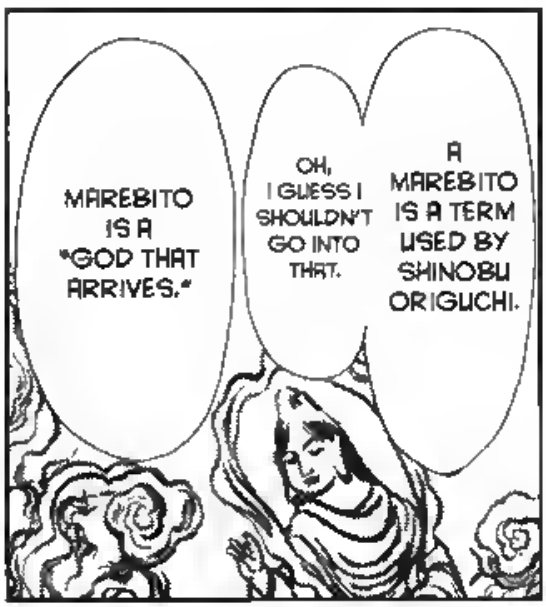
A death book is a record kept in temples of local people who have died, along with their worldly name, posthumous Buddhist name, and date of death. The worldly name is the name you use in life. The posthumous name is the name you receive after your death.

PAGE 74, BRANCH FAMILY

A branch family is established by a collaterel lina ot tha main family (tha lina dascended through tha aldast mala) in Japan. Bafore World War II, branch familias oftan needed to saak parmission from tha main family in issuas such as land inheritance and marriage.

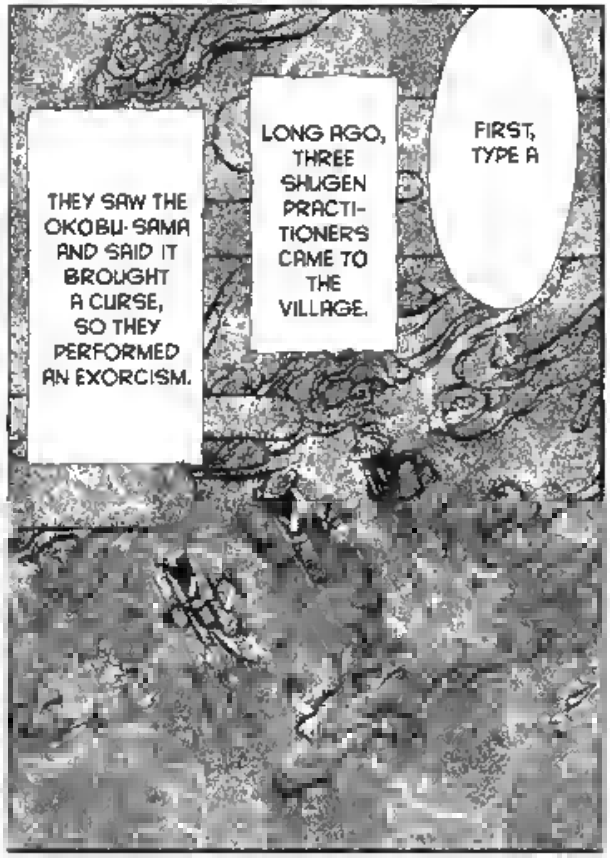
PAGE 78, *MAREBITO*

Marebito maans "a person who comas by rarely." It usually raters to a god who arrivas from aithar sky or sea. The way people thought about *marebito* is parhaps similar to how we parceiva aliens today.



PAGE 79, SHINOBU ORIGUCHI

Shinobu Origuchi is a famous scholar of Japanese folklore and litaratura. Ha established the foundation of tha study of Japanase folklore. Ha also contended that all ot Japanese literature had its trua origins in Shinto prayers and cursed words, which have a connection to tha baliet in *marebito*.

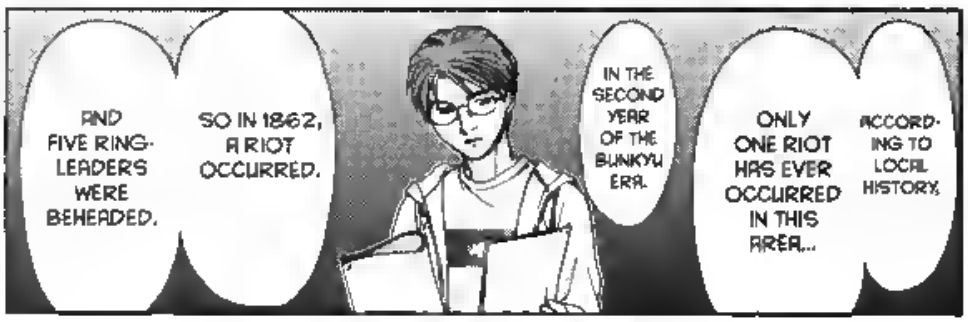

FIRST, TYPE A
LONG AGO, THREE SHUGEN PRACTI-TIONERS CAME TO THE VILLAGE.
THEY SAW THE OKOBU-SAMA AND SAID IT BROUGHT A CURSE, SO THEY PERFORMED AN EXORCISM.

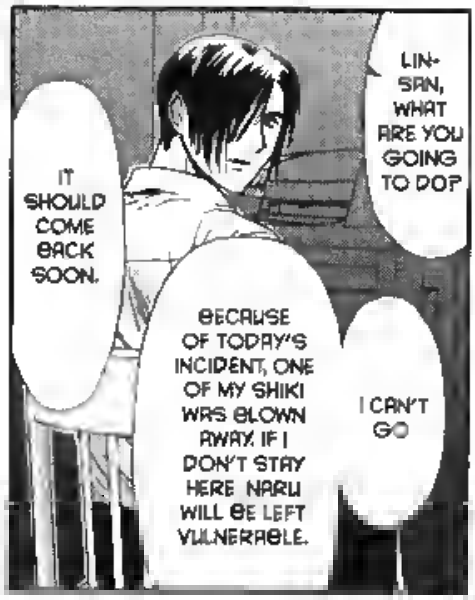
PAGE 81, *SHUGEN* PRACTITIONERS AND *SHUGENDO*

Shugen is e religion whose practitioners train in mountains and forests. Through mystic ceremonies, they ettempt to feel miracles brought on by gods and Buddhe. The term *shugen* literally means to "train and test."

PAGE 87, BUNKYU ERA

The Bunkyu ere is the period between 1861 and 1863. The emperor during this time was Koumei.


AND FIVE RING-LEADERS WERE BEHEADED.
SO IN 1862, A RIOT OCCURRED.
IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE BUNKYU ERA.
ONLY ONE RIOT HAS EVER OCCURRED IN THIS AREA...
ACCORD-ING TO LOCAL HISTORY,


LIN-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IT SHOULD COME BACK SOON.
BECAUSE OF TODAY'S INCIDENT, ONE OF MY SHIKI WAS BLOWN AWAY. IF I DON'T STAY HERE NARU WILL BE LEFT VULNERABLE.
I CAN'T GO

PAGE 88, *SHIKI*

Shikigami, also abbreviated as *shiki*, are spiritual beings that have been summoned by an *onmyouji*. They can change into many forms depending on the spell caster, such as birds or beasts. An *onmyouji* is a kind of Japanese exorcist. Other than exorcism, during the Heian period they performed a useful service for the government that made them quite powerful politically: they aided in the transfer of capital from one person to another by predicting whether a particular plot of land would be lucky for its owner. In modern Japan, however, they are seen as mere Shinto priests.

PAGE 119, AYAKO'S RITUAL

Ayako begins her ritual by pouring sake out onto the ground. Sake that has been purified by a Shinto priest is called an *omiki* and is a customary offering to the god during prayer. Other traditional offerings include fish, rice, and salt. Then Ayako shakes a tree branch left and right. It is said that by shaking it the spiritual stain or dirtiness is transferred onto the branch. Ayako used a tool called an *ohnusa* in volume 1 [96.4] for a similar purpose, but both can be used. The *ohnusa* is an evolved form of the branch. The pure ringing of the bell on Ayako's branch is used to call the gods. Because it is difficult to translate Ayako's spell literally, we have left it in Japanese to preserve its authenticity.

PAGE 135, *EBISU*

As Houshou expleined to Mai in volume 8, e*bisu* is a term for unusually shaped objects that drift around beaches end sees. This cen include corpses, underwater rocks, sharks, whales, and driftwood. Fishing villages would see this as a sign of good fortune. After medieval Japan, *Ebisu* came to be the neme of the god of good fortune. He is often depicted as carrying a fishing pole and a fish (red snepper, which is a symbol for good luck in Jepanese culture).

PAGE 162, *TOKKOSHO*

A *tokkosho* is a Buddhist tool. The chief materials used include various metals and ivory. There is a grip in the middle and both ends are sharp.

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